



JAMES HASKINS

Westchester Commons brings the ‘vibe’ to shopping in Chesterfield County

Opened in 2009, Westchester Commons has become a vibrant shopping destination for the region, combining retail – more than 60 merchants – with a wide variety of restaurants and services. And it now includes residential properties in The Vue apartments and the forthcoming townhomes project called The Edge at Westchester, a partnership with StyleCraft Homes.

The Edge will include almost 180 three-story townhomes, each with a garage. “This project will continue to enhance Westchester Commons as a place to have everything at your doorstep, from your doctor to a place to have your hair or nails done to restaurants that you can eat somewhere different every day of the week,” says Mark Bowen, Westchester Commons’ marketing and operations manager. “It continues that ‘village feel,’ which was the design that the original developers of the center had when Westchester was originally built.”

The area around Westchester Commons will have quite a bit of residential growth over the next 10 years from different developers and builders. Properties will range from apartments and condos to townhomes and single-family homes.

“The wonderful thing is that many of those neighboring residents will be

able to take a short stroll to their favorite restaurants, take in a movie or get what they need for their family, all at one place – Westchester Commons,” says Bowen.

Growth within Westchester Commons is ongoing. Airrosti, a pain management treatment center, and Dominic’s Italian Grille, a local restaurant specializing in homemade pasta dishes, are both under construction now. They are expected to open by mid-summer.

One of the biggest draws to the center is the wide array of restaurants that include Sedona Taphouse, Latitude Seafood, The Shaved Duck Restaurant and now Napa Kitchen and Wine.

“Napa Kitchen, which just opened at the end of February, is hot as fire in the Richmond restaurant scene, serving a variety of California-style cuisine and one of the widest selections of wines from all over the world,” says Bowen.

The center also hosts many family-oriented events during the year — think Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. “We’ve been doing these events for about 12 years, ever since the center opened,” Bowen says.

Working with local charities is important to Westchester Commons as it ties the center closer to the communities where its shoppers live, work and play.

“It shows our customers that we are here for the long haul, and it allows us to give back to the community organizations that serve us all as a whole,” Bowen says. “We have worked with as many as 20-25 charities annually, and since 2016, we have proudly helped those charities raise over \$1.2 million collectively. It has been rewarding in so many ways, giving these charities not only an opportunity to raise much-needed funds, but also giving them a public platform to tell their story to some large audiences to gain more volunteers, friends, and donors.”

The center is also known for its long-running concert series. Each concert benefits a local charity directly.

The 2022 Westchester Concert Series is being held on Thursdays this year, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Westchester Concert Field, at the end of Main Street. Upcoming shows include the Voltage Brothers on July 14 (benefiting the Chester-

field Domestic Violence Task Force) and Ron Moody & the Centaurs on July 28 (benefiting the Fatherhood Foundation of Virginia), followed by five additional shows in August and September.

Shoppers can take advantage of savings by applying for a Westchester Shoppers Perks Card, a shopper loyalty card that offers discounts at a variety of participating merchants. The center also holds monthly drawings for all participating customers for at least \$50 in merchant gift cards.

“It’s absolutely free to sign up and takes about a minute to register at www.shopwestchestercommons.com,” Bowen says.

“Like we always say, ‘Come to Westchester Commons, where shopping and fun combine!’”



WESTCHESTER COMMONS



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