

Zen Sushi restaurant to open in two weeks

By WHITNEY HELM Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, September 1, 2015 4:00 pm

BELOIT — Despite a few delays with construction, a new Asian restaurant expects to add to the growing dining mix in downtown Beloit when it opens its doors in two weeks.

Co-Owner Brian Park said the remodeling of the space in the Phoenix Building, which included new floors and furniture, held up a July 1 opening date for Zen Sushi & Grill.

The restaurant will have a sushi bar as well as Robata grills, or Japanese-style charcoal grills. Chefs will use these grills to cook fish and other meats in front of guests in the restaurant.

Park said he plans to use local products whenever possible to ensure the food is healthy, unlike many popular hibachi tables which use oils and butters to cook.

In addition, the bar will be stocked with local wines and sake wines.

“We want to give them, Beloit, a little Asian-Japanese culture, how we dine there and how we feel there,” said Park in a previous interview. “So it’s not just about good food, but how you eat well, healthy.”

Park said he is still looking to hire kitchen staff which has proven to be somewhat difficult.

"I've placed ads on Craigslist and haven't gotten much response," he said.

Park said training for some of the hired staff will begin this week and he's willing to train those with little or no experiences on the culture and atmosphere of a sushi restaurant. He said training would include things like what sushi looks like and how to cut sushi.

Park, who has more than two decades of experience in restaurants, said training is important to honor the customers.

"It's going to take extra hours to train them on the culture," Park said.

He added inspections from the Rock County Health Department will also happen later this week.

"We have expectations from our customers," he said. "I don't want to make a mistake."