

# Brunswick burger restaurant to add a Middletown location

By RYAN MARSHALL

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The popular Brunswick burger restaurant Boxcar expects to open a second location in Middletown in the coming days.

The second location, in the former Aleko's Village Cafe space in the rear of the Shell gas station at 4304 Old National Pike, should be open within two weeks, and possibly sooner, owner Brett Novick said Wednesday.

Aleko's recently opened a new location on North Church Street in Middletown.

The Middletown location will join Boxcar's location on South Maple Avenue in Brunswick.

About a year ago, Novick and his staff were working on an idea for a new restaurant in Brunswick, the plans of which are still in progress, he said.

As those plans were developing, he heard that the Aleko's space was coming available.

Finding affordable, second-generation restaurant space in Frederick County is difficult, Novick said. He talked to the owner of the Middletown space as soon as he could.

"I got in my car that minute and drove over there," he said.

The two farms that supply most of Boxcar's beef, South Mountain Creamery and Richvale Farm, are both near Middletown.

The Brunswick and Middletown communities in western Frederick County are similar, but Novick said they're far enough apart that their customer bases won't overlap.

The two restaurants will have similar approaches, he said, although the slightly smaller Middletown location won't serve frozen custard, as the one in Brunswick does.

He expects the Middletown restaurant will draw more of a lunch crowd, while Brunswick is geared more toward dinner.

Although the company will still do some catering, it will be selling its popular food truck after eight years, Novick said.

The Brunswick location has been open for about three years.

A location on Frederick's North East Street closed in December 2023 for what Novick said was a variety of reasons, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Staff photo by Katina Zentz

**Brett Novick, owner, and Sebastian Meza, manager, stand outside of the upcoming Middletown location for Boxcar Burgers on Thursday.**