

Business

Little Caesars opens

*World's largest
carryout firm*

The world's largest carryout pizza chain, Little Caesars, has come to town.

Owners Audrie and Herve Ouellette of A&H Pizza Companies opened the first Little Caesars franchise in town on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in Fountain Hills Plaza.

The restaurant is located between Radio Shack and LeBaron's Cleaners in the southwest corner of Palisades Boulevard and La Montana Drive.

The 1,145-square-foot restaurant offers the full complement of Little Caesars' menu items that have existed since the company's founding in the late 1950s.

Little Caesars is known for its HOT-N-READY large cheese or pepperoni pizzas for \$5 and several specialty pizzas, including a three-meat treat, supreme, Hawaiian and vegetarian for \$8.

A variety of side dishes, including Crazy Bread, Italian cheese bread and three flavors of chicken wings, also appear on the menu.

The Mesa couple has more than 30 years of experience in the casual dining industry. The Fountain Hills location is their sixth Little Caesars in the Greater Phoenix area.

A Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 2. Store manager is Tom Nicol.

"The opportunity to introduce the Little Caesars concept and brand to Fountain Hills residents is an exceptional chance to introduce them to our quality products, great value, quick service and unsurpassed convenience," said Herve Ouellette.

A&H Pizza Companies operate three Little Caesar restaurants in Mesa, and single units in Apache Junction and the San Tan Valley.

Plans call for the new restaurant to hire 15 to 20 employees, Ouellette



Audrie and Herve Ouellette opened their sixth Little Caesars restaurant --- this time in Fountain Hills Plaza. The national carryout pizza chain offers quick service, quality ingredients and a fair price point, said the couple.

said. "It is our hope that most of these new jobs will be for Fountain Hills residents," he said. "It is our intent to become an active corporate citizen in the town's Chamber of Commerce and other local civic and charitable organizations. That has been part of our business model for our other five restaurants."

Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

Little Caesar's Pizza opened its first restaurant in Garden City, Mich. in 1959. The company brags that it is the largest carryout chain internationally with restaurants on five continents.

Jason Bowles, leasing representative for The Pederson Group, developers of Fountain Hills Plaza, said the opening of the new Little Caesars Restaurant is a welcome addition to the center.

"We have been searching for a national pizza chain restaurant since we acquired the center in early 2008," he said.

"Herve and Audrie are proven professional restaurant operators with a wealth of experience in operating successful franchises.

"I am confident that Little Caesars will be a big hit with local residents and businesses looking for consistently great pizza at an affordable price."

Originally built in 1986, Fountain Hills Plaza has served the community for more than 25 years with a diverse mix of tenants. A \$20 million renovation project on the 24,500-square-foot center was completed in the summer of 2009.

A 49,967-square-foot Bashas' and an updated 22,800-square-foot ACE Hardware Store anchor the plaza.

The center is also home to Great Clips, Radio Shack, Pony Express, Dental Care Specialists, American Family Insurance, Flapjacks, Instant Imprints, Cheryl's of Fountain Hills, Fountain Hills Medical Clinic, Fore Peaks Realty, Fountain Fashions and R&R Nails.