

Penn Station East Coast Subs, the fast-casual restaurant known for its legendary Philadelphia Cheesesteak Sub sandwich served hot and made-to-order on freshly baked French bread, will open its fourth store in Middle Tennessee in mid-December at 600 S. Mt. Juliet Road in Mt. Juliet, Tn. At the helm is Thompson Station resident Marcus Queen and his two partners, who have plans to open two additional locations in 2014 and a total of 12 stores throughout Middle Tennessee within the next five years.

Queen is no stranger to the restaurant industry. He's spent 34 years working for well-known chains such as Applebee's, Houston's and Burger King. After a short stint working for Advanced Auto Parts in 2011, he was immediately drawn to Penn Station and its food after a visit a few years ago.

"After three decades in the restaurant business I thought I'd had enough and decided to try my hand in the automotive industry," said Queen. "But it didn't take long for me to return after I learned about Penn Station. I first tried the food on a trip to Louisville, Ky. to visit my sister. I thought the concept was great and the food was terrific. A few months later I received a phone call from a recruiter and the rest, as they say, is history."

Queen and his partners opened their first Penn Station location in Hermitage in August 2012 and purchased two additional stores in Bellevue and Murfreesboro in May 2012. Their development agreement calls for the opening of eight more locations.

"Penn Station is a northern brand that we are slowly introducing to the South," said Queen. "So far the response of the Middle Tennessee community has been very positive and we know as we continue to open more restaurants Penn Station will soon become a household name that represents fresh and delicious sub sandwiches."

Originally founded in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1985, Penn Station serves a variety of grilled and cold deli subs, as well as fresh, hand-cut, made-to-order French fries, hand-squeezed lemonade made throughout the day and chocolate chunk cookies baked fresh in the restaurant.

With his 12 restaurants, Queen will bring approximately 300 jobs to the area. He plans to hire

25 employees at his Mt. Juliet location and applicants can visit the Hermitage restaurant to apply.

Penn Station has approximately 270 restaurants in 13 states including Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. All but one location is franchised. Projections call for the opening of 30 restaurants nationwide in 2014. Markets targeted for growth include Kansas City, Richmond, Chicago, Detroit, Nashville and North and South Carolina, as well as a number of other existing markets. For more information, visit www.penn-station.com.