

HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE HIGHLAND AREA

COLUMBIA CAFÉ

Hard work brings about a new dining destination in the Highland Area

By: Bob Marak

Matthew Linn. That name means different things to different people. Massage therapist, real estate investor, founder of the Krewe of Highland Mardi Gras Parade, interesting guy, and now, proprietor of **Columbia Café**. Columbia Café, is the latest of Matthew's ventures and it is the newest and most hip café/coffee house in the Highland neighborhood. Located on the corner of Kings Highway and Creswell Avenue, the Columbia Café represents eight years of Matthew's planning, hard work and just plain persistence.

If you have been to the Columbia Cafe, you know it is almost perfect in every detail. The counters, the tile, the finishes, are all very impressive. It wasn't always that way. Two years ago when Matthew walked me through the current Columbia Café, the structure was a disaster. Stepping over piles of lumber, trying not to step in holes or on nails, Matthew methodically showed me each room of the café. There were no written plans at this time, but Matthew was very detailed in his description of where the coffee bar would be, where the smokers dining area would be, how the kitchen would be laid out. At this time, it all seemed so impossible, particularly since Matthew was doing a lot of the work himself. But look at what a great product it turned out to be!

If you have driven past the Columbia Café three to four times a day in the last two years like I have, you may have seen Matthew Linn and many of his friends/subcontractors hanging off ladders and working very hard. One of these helpers is **Lisa Waddell**, Matthew's significant other who, according to Matthew, sometimes worked on the Columbia Café harder than Matthew.

The Columbia Café is indeed a labor of love. Every detail that Matthew described on that first "walk-through" has come to pass.

If you know Matthew, you know he strays a little from the norm. He is an innovator. Call Matthew eccentric, outrageous and even stubborn, if you will. But Matthew Linn is a very hard worker who does just what he sets out to do. He is also a great believer in the **Highland Area**. Congratulations, **Matthew** and the **Highland Area**, on your beautiful new restaurant!

By the way, the food is great!



Columbia Café — Northwest corner of Kings Highway and Creswell Avenue

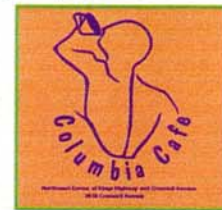
HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday - 10:00 am. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and in-between
for coffees, teas and pastries.



FOOD: Contemporary, Continental, "New American"; menu varies daily. The restaurant is a "Kitchen-to-Front" eatery — the cooks determine the menu. Wine, beer and liquor served. Food is prepared by Executive Chef Douglas Gusten, along with Chef Libby Patterson and Chef Becky Bush.

COST: Breakfast and lunch, \$6.95 and up; Dinner entrees begin at \$15.00

PHONE: 425-3862



Part of the Columbia Café team.