

High Pint Brewery and Public House:

## Planned Triad brewery wins city matching grant approval

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Amid temporary bar and restaurant shutdowns in response to coronavirus, a new brewery and restaurant is set to begin build-out work in High Point this spring.

On Monday, the High Point Council unanimously approved up to \$6,000 in a 5% matching State of North Carolina Building Reuse Grant to build High Pint Brewery and Public House. Principal Larry Fila said work will begin in mid-May with a targeted opening late September or early October.



Image: High Point Brewery and Public House

This former beauty school at 1114 Eastchester Drive in High Point will reopen as High Pint Brewery and Public House this fall. LARRY FILA/HIGH POINT BREWERY AND PUBLIC HOUSE

For Fila, the grant approval marks the next stage of a process that began more than two years ago to build a brewpub in the former Fila Academy beauty school that occupied the 16,000-square-foot building Fila owns.

“Everything is just starting to come together,” said Fila. “I’m kind of glad that this has taken the course it has because if we had been open eight or 10 months ago we would have been right in the middle of this virus with a start-up.”

Investment in the property will top \$1.5 million, including upfitting, brewing and kitchen equipment, furniture and more. High Pint Brewery expects to create as many as 27 jobs in the first two years with an average annual salary of just more than \$49,000.

With close proximity to downtown and to High Point University at 1114 Eastchester Drive just north of University Parkway, Fila said his former beauty school property is an ideal location.

“In High Point there aren’t many breweries, and I love the area because we’re right between Winston-Salem and Greensboro,” said Fila. “We’re at the halfway point for everything, and being next to the university is very exciting as well.”

Liberty Brewery and Restaurant was the largest brewpub in High Point before closing last month. Brown Truck Brewery on 1234 N. Main St. is now the city's largest brewery, according to Triad Business Journal research.

Although the original plan was to initially have food trucks onsite, High Pint Brewery will open serving food. Fila said he is now interviewing for an executive chef and other key kitchen positions.

Fila has partnered with brewing equipment supplier Ryan Hice on the venture, who in addition to overseeing installation will serve as vice president of sales. Brewery operations leader will be Brendan Schofield. Cindy Fila is president.

High Pint Brewery will seat 125 in the taproom, which will include a lounge area, a bar around the taps and round tables. Two barrel rooms will double as event space, with the larger one seating about 100 and a smaller one 75. There will also be two small office/conference rooms for business luncheons and meetings.

Fila has not identified High Pint’s master brewer, but he did say he has won more than 40 medals for beer competition over the past 20 years. “We’re going to have some good beer,” he said. The cellar can hold as many as 300 barrels, and the taproom will offer six to eight staples upon opening.

There is ample parking on site and green space that Fila said is ideal for outdoor festivals.

“We want this to be a family-friendly environment,” Fila said. “We want to host kids’ birthday parties and things of that nature. We’re not looking to be just a college bar, even though we need to have that college crowd as part of the mix.”

The project architect is Robert Canter and the engineer Chris Horne, both of High Point. Greensboro-based D.H. Griffin is the general contractor.