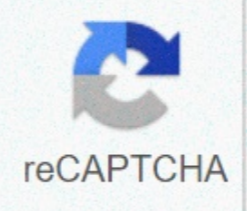


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Happy wheels portland maine closing

PORTLAND — Happy Wheels, the skating rink on Warren Avenue in Portland, is closing. The longtime manager of the local landmark says that although the deals are great, the owners have been trying to sell. Once, there were seven Happy Wheels in Maine and New Hampshire. Portland's is the last, but in six weeks, they'll close forever. It's very sad. Sad day, said employee Ann Carter. The Happy Wheels team was in tears on Thursday. Everyone is upset, but what are you going to do?, said manager Danny Dyer. The track was inaugurated in 1973, and many families have been going there for generations. The children brought their children, who brought their children, and now they are bringing their children, Dyer said. Amberlynn Esperanza says she made some of her favorite childhood memories on Happy Wheels. It's easy to have my birthday party here, and everyone loved physical activity as a child, and having all my colleagues here was really an exciting time, Esperanza said. It's not just a skating rink. It's a family. It's the community, Carter said, that hates the idea of kids not having a place to skate. For many children, it's one thing every weekend, Carter said. It's going to be a big loss. We try to keep the kids safe. We try to keep them busy and entertained without being on the streets and in trouble. News of the happy wheels closure spread quickly on social media. The other half there, her phone's been exploding since yesterday, Dyer said. I got a call from someone who's in California, they got a message. I remember skating there. Soon, it will be the end of an era, leaving families with only memories of this place, but what happy memories they are. I've seen a lot of people have a lot of fun, Dyer said. For this to be shut down, for this to go away, it's not a good thing for everyone, Carter said. The last day to skate is Sunday, December 15th. And between now and then, they expect many families to come in for one last skateboard. In December, Portland lost a family fun staple when the Happy Wheels skating rink closed its doors. Happy Wheels had been an institution in northern New England having been open for 47 years. According to WGME, at its peak, there were 7 locations across Maine and New Hampshire, with portland's location being the last location standing. Since closing, the closest skating rink for southern mainers is the Rolldrome at Auburn. Portland Press Herald noticed that the old portland location building had been sold to developers who no longer wanted the track. Well, looks like we didn't see the last one of happy wheels. After the sale, the owners did not claim complete defeat, as they noticed that they still own the business, but did not have a place to run it. It seems that this dilemma may be very soon. Old Old Derek Fitzgerald has officially proposed a new happy wheels location at 84 Warren Avenue in Westbrook, less than a mile and a half from portland's old location. The new track will be similar in size to the old one, with promises of improvements whenever possible, and 94 parking spaces. Fitzgerald told the Press Herald that he hopes to open the doors to the new runway this fall. Perfect time for a new fun in the school year! Young and old skaters got on one of their last skates at Happy Wheels in Portland in December. A former manager plans to open a new Happy Wheels in Westbrook. File photo WESTBROOK — A former manager of now-closed Happy Wheels wants to open a new skating rink this fall in Westbrook. Derek Fitzgerald brought his proposal to build a 23,100-square-foot Happy Wheels at 84 Warren Avenue for an enthusiastic Planning Council on Tuesday. I'm extremely glad you chose Westbrook. I come back and remember a time when the only exercise we did at school was a trip to Happy Wheels. Westbrook needs more family activities, said Planning Council President Rene Daniels. The popular skating rink at 331 Warren Avenue in Portland closed on December 15 after the building, owned by Warren Ave LLC, was sold to developers who had no interest in maintaining the track. The old Happy Wheels on Warren Avenue in Portland. File photo The runway to be built is about the same size as the old one, which had been open for more than 40 years. The proposal for the undeveloped lot includes 94 parking spaces with overflowing parking space. The design seeks to keep the best aspects of the track while improving whenever possible, said Patrick Coughlin of engineering firm St. Germain. Coughlin hopes to have final plans for the Planning Council in May so that construction can begin in the summer. If all goes well, we hope to open our doors just in time for the busy fall season, Fitzgerald said. This project has generated a ton of interest since the portland building was sold, Coughlin said. The December closure was a blow to skating enthusiasts, who gathered on the track to get on a final skateboard as they mourned their loss. Planning Director Jennie Franscheschi recalled skating at Happy Wheels in her youth. People are excited about this proposal. Their closing in Portland left a hole. It makes me nostalgic about skating with my pom-poms, Franscheschi said. I shared the plans with my daughter, and she's super excited about it, said Jason Frazier, a member of the Ward 2 Planning Council. Fitzgerald, an avid skater, said he is also excited about the new track. We won't have to almost an hour to the nearest rinkue track (Rollodrome) in Auburn, he said. Once there were seven happy wheels skating centers in Maine and New Hampshire. Happy Wheels sites in South Portland and and closed in the 1980s and 2000s, respectively. Patrick Coughlin presents the project for a Westbrook Happy Wheels. The final exterior and interior projects are still being worked on and are likely to be presented to the Planning Council in May. Chance Viles / American Journal Send questions/comments to editors. «Previous Next» filed under: under:

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