

Food explosion taking place in St. Pete

Charles Billi, WTSP 11:29 p.m. EDT May 6, 2015



Fresh vegetables, delicious sandwiches, local beer, and gourmet teas. If you like to eat and drink, you'll like what's cooking in the Grand Central District of St. Pete.

A booming row of eclectic restaurants, and Tom Woodard jumped right in.

"We looked at several places but we kept coming back to this one," said Woodard.



Woodard owns Pom Pom TeaHouse. He converted an old gas station and his restaurant is just one example of this new gastro push.

"We were watching the development inch further and further towards Grand Central so we figured this was the best place to open," said Woodard.

Brian Bailey, who owns the blog "I Love The Burg," says the food boom is following the residential boom.

"St. Pete's walkable, very livable nature was a perfect fit for urbanization, and I think that's what makes St. Pete so special," said Bailey.

The evidence is everywhere. Almost a dozen eateries are under construction.

Urban comfort is opening in an old gas station too, as is dog bar, and Casita Taquerita is already a big hit.

"I think people should come out and explore the neighborhood it keeps growing and gets better every day."

Few spaces are available because everything has been snapped up. So the next best thing is to just build something, and that's what they're doing.