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Doing laundry with a touch of high-tech

By HARRISON HAAS

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A BANK OF NEW, high-efficiency washing machines is making an impression at both Speedy Wash N Go Laundromats, this one in Alton and its counterpart in Belmont. HARRISON HAAS/CITIZEN

Have an overflowing hamper or piles and piles of dirty laundry that need to be cleaned?

Take your clothes down to the newly opened Speedy Wash N Go Laundromat in Alton, located at 7 School St., behind the post office in Alton.

Resident Scott Williams built a new, 4,500-square-foot building earlier this year, with 3,000 square feet being home to the Alton Dance Academy and the remaining 1,500 square feet being occupied by the laundromat, which opened officially on May 3.

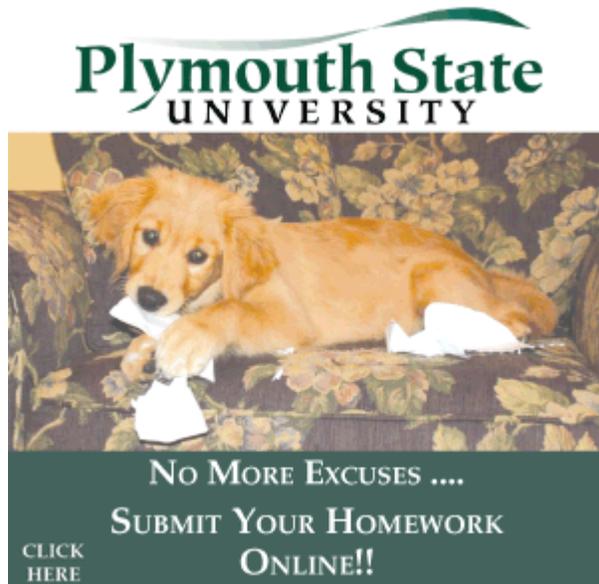
Williams said he saw the need for a laundromat in town because the most recent one closed about five years ago.

"This is something we really thought Alton was shy on," he said.

All of the machines at the laundromat are United States-made and are Energy-Star-rated appliances. Williams said the washers use half as much water and detergent as most conventional washers, resulting in less water and chemicals being used.

Going along with the energyefficient theme, the laundromat has all-LED lighting inside and out. Williams said the 20 LED lights inside emit only 260 watts in total, and even the vending machine is running on a low, 2 AMP charge.

“We have 15 washers, ranging from 20 pounds to 60 pounds,” said Williams. “And we have 18 dryers, with the capacities of 35 and 45 pounds.”



Each



ALTON'S NEW Speedy Wash N Go Laundromat, which opened in May, offers high-efficiency machines, as well as energy-efficient lighting and free wi-fi. HARRISON HAAS/CITIZEN

machine can be operated by coins, credit/debit cards, or the laundromat's own loyalty card, which allows customers to add money as they go.

“If people use our loyalty card, when they load them online, they get an additional five percent,”

he said. “We also have Super Tuesday, where all the big washers are \$.50. Tuesday is usually one of the slowest days at laundromats, but we have been able to make it one our busiest days with the Super Tuesdays.”

The laundromat offers a wide range of soap products, a change machine, a folding area, and free wi-fi.

Williams said he also purchased the old Church Street Laundromat in Belmont, across from St. Joseph's Church.

“We completely rehabbed it with new equipment,” Williams said. “We installed an energy-efficient heating and cooling system like we did here in Alton.”

The Belmont laundromat was purchased back in March and was closed for a week in June. It reopened with the new equipment, with the new setup mimicking the one in Alton.

“We have the same-capacity washers and dryers there as we do at our Alton location,” said Williams. “We offer a wash, dry, and fold service in Belmont, something we'd like to eventually do here in Alton.”

The unattended laundromats are equipped with a surveillance system, 24/7.

Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, 365 days a year.

Williams said all the machines are electronically connected, allowing him to monitor the status of the machines anywhere he is near an Internet connection.

For more information about Speedy Wash N Go Laundromat, see its website at www.speedywashngo.com.

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