

Feuds With Everyone

Published: May 28, 2008 06:10 PM
Modified: May 28, 2008 06:13 PM

Coffee shop moving over parking dispute

BY SAMUEL SPIES, Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — A popular Franklin Street coffee shop is moving to near the Whole Foods on Elliott Road over a parking dispute.

Lex Alexander, the owner of 3Cups, a small shop specializing in gourmet coffee, has been feuding with landlord Spencer Young over parking since last year.

On Wednesday, Young's attorney filed to have 3Cups evicted.

Young owns The Courtyard, a collection of small restaurant and office spaces in the 400 block of West Franklin Street. But most of the parking that's attached to the center by a special zoning permit is owned by Chapel Hill landowner P.H. Craig.

Young won't pay Craig rent for the spaces and Craig won't sell the lot to Young. Since the middle of 2007, Craig has blocked off his portion of the lot with railroad ties and piles of gravel, cutting the available spaces from 79 to 23.

And that's not enough to support a business, Alexander said.

Because of the parking dispute, 3Cups and its sister business SandwHich have been paying their rent into an escrow account, instead of to Young or his management company. Last month, Young had the locks changed on both businesses, locking them out for a day.

Young's lawyer said Wednesday that his client will continue to seek back rent from Alexander. "Their view of what they owe as rent ... is a lot different from our view, and we were unable to settle it," said Reef Ivey II.

On Wednesday, Ivey filed a summary eviction notice.

"We're not going to fight it," Alexander said.

He's signed a new lease on Elliott Road, he said. "We hope to open in the early fall." The location is near where Alexander ran the Wellspring grocery before selling it to Whole Foods.

samuel.spies@newsobserver.com or (919) 932-2014

© Copyright 2008, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of [The McClatchy Company](#)