

Dixie Pig cooks again

By JODY VOLLMAR
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Barbecue rib gourmets are getting out their best bibs and heading for Odenton after the reopening of the Dixie Pig.

Eric Hall Sr., grandson of the locally famous eatery's founder, Homer Hall, said old and new customers are finding their way to the mouth-watering smell of ribs cooking over an open fire.

"Most definitely the old customers are coming in and lots of new ones," he said. "People tell me it's better than it ever was."

Formerly located in a residential area of Hanover, the Dixie Pig was forced to close in April after residents won a zoning battle. Neighbors had protested the outdoor restaurant as a commercial use in a residential area and the Halls were unable to prove the business had been operating before current zoning regulations.

Denied a special exception, Homer Hall closed the restaurant but prom-



Photo by Stephanie Gross-Hervey

HOMER HALL, founder of the Dixie Pig barbecue restaurant, still mixes the barbecue sauce for his grandson, Eric Hall, right, at the restaurant's new Odenton location.

ised to reopen in a new location. Located at 1690-B Route 175, the new Dixie Pig is now in a commercial area.

Eric Hall said he and his grandfather would have opened sooner but getting county approval for the first wood burning grill in Maryland took a month. "They had to see what size the nuts and bolts were," he said.

Eric Hall said his grandfather is

still making the secret sauce for the ribs. "He's my drawing card. Who's going to believe that a kid like me knows anything about ribs?" he said.

Although the new restaurant has no seating area, the takeout menu has been expanded to include chopped and sliced ham, beef, barbecue, chicken, hot and mild sausages, cole slaw and potato salad.

Once the kitchen is in full operation, Eric Hall said he wants to add other items to the menu. "This is definitely a permanent location for us," he said.

Hours for the Dixie Pig are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday; noon to midnight Saturday; and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. The phone number is 551-4983.