

# Tex-Mex

## Diners get yet another choice

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Farmington Hills restaurant-goers will soon be able to add Tex-Mex to their collective taste buds.

Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill Restaurant is tentatively set to open Nov. 16 in the Muirwood Square Plaza on Grand River and Drake roads. The

**■ It's an aggressive plan; we think we'll get it done.**

**David Nelson**  
—Applebee's attorney

restaurant bar specializing in Southwest style food is building a new 4,738-square-foot structure where the former O'Sheehan's Tavern was formerly located.

Construction — that included demolition of the O'Sheehan's building — is ongoing at the site. "It's an aggressive plan; we think we'll get it done," said

David Nelson, an Applebee's attorney.

Applebee's received the O'Sheehan's liquor license as part of a buyout from the tavern's owner. Farmington Hills City Council approved the transfer of the Class C license 6-0 at Monday's regular meeting.

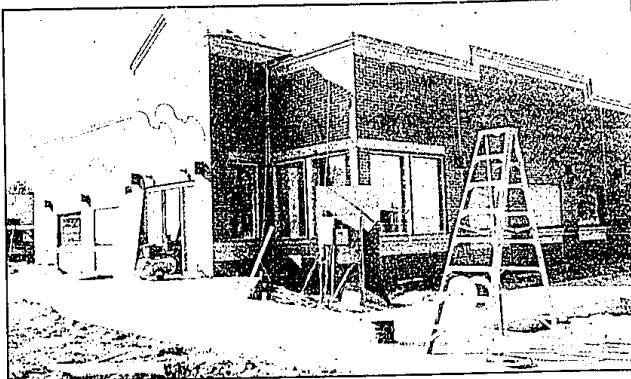
The license is dependent on the Overland Park, Kan.-based restaurant operator receiving a certificate of occupancy from the city's fire and building departments.

The timing of transfer request piqued Councilman Terry Sever's curiosity.

"I'm surprised to see a building being torn down and now being built before this transfer came to us for approval," Sever said.

The restaurant operators felt confident enough the transfer would go through, Nelson said. Otherwise, "we'd have waited until another (liquor license) became available," Nelson added.

Applebee's of Michigan operates 35 restaurants in the state and has had only two violations for sales to minors throughout the chain since 1992, Police Chief Bill Dwyer said in his rec-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

**Brand new: Applebee's restaurant is under construction where the former O'Sheehan's Tavern used to stand in the Muirwood shopping center.**

ommendation the transfer be approved. Both those occurred at its Sterling Heights restaurant.

The restaurant reported alcohol accounts for 13 percent of sales while 87 percent is food. The Applebee's menu includes steaks, chicken and pasta dishes. A new restaurant is part of a major overhaul at the plaza. Pittsfield Township-based

Buch's Valu-Land market plan to build a new 4,500-square foot store in the center.

The site plan has been approved, a store spokeswoman said. Completion is set for spring 2000.

Buch's specializes in perishables, value priced groceries and food solutions. The 10-store chain is family owned and is

opening a new facility on Newburgh and Six Mile in Livonia Dec. 3.

Buch's also has a store on Five Mile and Sheldon roads. "We're very very food oriented," said Peggy Conlin, Buch's spokeswoman. "We're 4,500 square feet of solid food."

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The Farmington/Farmington Hills Breakfast Club will sponsor an essay contest entitled, "If I Could Give Freedom Away."

All high school sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to participate, according to Mary Jane Phillips, event chairwoman. The local club will select a

first, second- and a third-place winner in its contest.

The first-place entry will automatically be forwarded to the district competition where it will be judged against other club winning entries from the surrounding areas. The first-place district winner will receive an all-expense paid, four-day trip to

Freedom Foundation Leadership Workshop in Valley Forge, Penn. and a plaque. The international awards are:

First place: plaque, trip to convention for winner and parents and \$5,000 scholarship.

Second place: plaque and \$3,000 college scholarship.

Third place: plaque and \$2,000 college scholarship.

All essays must be original and submitted by Dec. 1 to the Optimist Club. For further information contact Mary Jane Phillips at 442-1671.

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