Cowley's from page A1

family-owned bar-restaurant has always maintained for 28 years. Entertainment on the first floor would be continued.

Keeping Cowley's as a one-story pub is an option if the two-story plan is deemed not feasible for the location, Whitever form the project takes, Greg Cowley said one objective is to pump up the lunch business, keeping customers from heading to other communities.

According to Cowley and the communities of the communities.

communities. According to Cowley, who wanted to see what kind of reception such an ambitious project might receive from the planning commission, the brothers intend to assume ownership of the Grand River business from their parents (John and Marie Cowley) shortly after St. Patrick a Day.

John and Marie emigrated from Ireland in 1949, aubsequently establishing Cowley's Old Village Inn in 1972. Their sons will maintain a handson style of ownership.

Continuing Irish theme

Continuing Irish theme

Worke looking at a Dublin Victorian 1940-style atmosphere," asid Greg Cowley, noting that the brothers will soon meet in Atlanta with representatives from the Irish Pub Co., an Ireland-based architectural firm.

The Irish Pub Co. will look into designing both one-story and two-story versions of Cowley & Sons Irish Tavern.

"You can walk into any pub irreland or in Europe and they'll re-create that here in the United States," Greg Cowley said, adding that discussions have also taken place with a local firm, Wah Yee Architects.

The proposed expansion did pass muster with the planning commission, although cerious questions remain about parking and whether the existing building could safely hold a second floor. Commission Chair Mardy Stirling asked the Cowleys to come back with a detailed operations report and various architectural drawings.

"My sonse is we're happy Cowleys to see the Irish component maintained and continued."

Commission Chair is stirling said to the Cowleys, "I'd love to see the Irish component maintained and continued."

Commissioner Terri Morency opplauded the concept of bringing in "I'm which component maintained and continued."

Commissioner William Burke, who commented that a tring of upgrades to the rotali-restaurant mix in downtown Farmington.

"I'm just tickled at the whole concept you're looking at," and dominismer James Pegue. "But do you have any idea whether the building would (withatantal being) two stories?"

twintand being) two stories?

Looking at logistics

Michael Cowley acknowledged that the structural foundation is imited. It is a 40-by-80-foot span with no basement. He said the results of a feasibility study hopefully will be received before March and should offer the cowners a clearer picture. "We would add (cement) foundations where needed."

owners a clearer picture. "We would add (cement) foundations where needed."
The logistics of such a project also need to be closely examined. Cowley's is bordered by Grand River to the south, a parking lot to the north, Books Abound to the east and the Korner Barbers to the west. It is thought that the bar-restaurant actually dates back to the 1940s.
Greg Cowley said he thought as econd-floor addition was deable. "We think it can work. Nothing's been done (cosmetically) for 25 years."
Meanwhile, if all goes according to plan, construction would be completed over the aummer months. But the Cowley brothers still need to move their project through a number of Farmington city boards and commissions, including the Downtown Development Authority, Zoning Board of Appeals and Historical Commission, among others. Cowley's Old Village Inn is located in Farmington's historic district.

Two obstacles the family faces include leavaning if the founds-

Old Village Inn is located in Farmington's historic district.

Two obstacles the family faces include learning if the foundation is solid enough to bear the weight of a second floor and whether additional parking is available. Expanding the long-time "neighborhood bar" would only be feasible if the current lack of parking is dealt with, which both the Cowleys and city officials arrest upon.

Valet parking is one potential solution, said Greg Cowley, detailing an idea to funnel vehi-

🖪 'it'd be a tromondous boost. People often refer the bar-restaurant to a munici-pal lot near the Farmington Training Center on Thomas to it as a potential goldmine. I think that would really be true.' Street.

After the meeting, the planned expansion drew a favorable response from audience members such as Mayor Bill Hart-

Bill Hartsock

--Mayor

Support for plan

Stirling, who called Cowley's a downtown "landmark," echoed Hartsock's enthusiasm about the

said, adding that a now-look Cowley's will "bring new people to the downtown" while keeping customers in town who might now be traveling to dining desti-nations in other communities.

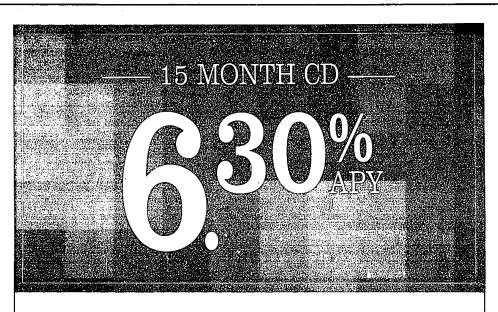
"So I think that's a positive. Hartsock agreed with the Cow-leys and planning commission that solving the parking dilem-ma is a crucial piece of the puz-zle. "Whether they go to a second floor, they still have to do some-thing about parking, something about parking, something to transport these folks from point A to point B."
Providing a sense that the

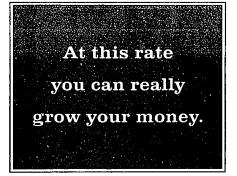
Providing a sense that the business community is willing to back such a project, local insur-ance company co-owner and DDA member Frank Chappison publicly commented that he would allow Cowley's customers to park in his company's lot, on the south side of Grand River east of Farmington Road, during evenings and weekends.

- "Lunch time would pre-

Lunch time would present a problem at our parking lot." Clappison said. "But evenings, we are not opposed to patrons

Cowley's using our parking let.
... This would be an enhancement" to downtown Farmington.





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