

Old Winery restaurant is one step closer to opening

Farmington area residents soon will be able to enjoy another restaurant in town if a group of businessmen are successful in their remodeling efforts of the old winery on Grand River at the base of Orchard Lake Road.

The Farmington City Council at this week's meeting has recommended to the state's liquor commission that the city's liquor license be granted to four men who plan to operate a family restaurant at the historic sight which originally housed the urban railroad.

Charles Teichner, architect, Raymond Wise, restaurateur, Joseph Stacy, mortgage broker, and Boyce Maxwell, the concern's major investor, are those interested in developing the eatery.

This is the third time the license has changed hands among investors who wanted to remodel the building.

"We should be ready to open between 60 and 90 days after the state liquor commission gives its approval," said Teichner. "We expect to wait

three to four months before the commission gives its approval.

The investors plan to integrate the building's history into the restaurant's decor.

"We will remove the vats in one room to give us a restricted dining space," Teichner said. We plan to open the brick-in windows that were used when the building was a power house."

THE TIN WALLS and roof of the loading dock will be replaced by brick.

A brick fireplace and bar will be added to the interior. The restaurant will seat 300 diners.

Another change in the old wine plant is the addition of ramps inside, which will lead to the bar and serve handicapped patrons.

The glass linings of the wine vats will be preserved as much as possible, according to Teichner.

"We want to keep the design

simple. We will add some antiques to the interior," he said.

The partners intend to operate a family restaurant, specializing in spaghetti.

"The highest priced meal will cost \$4.95," Teichner said. "We'll serve business lunches, also."

One of the problems that face the four men is deciding on a heating method for the building.

"The primary concern of the health department is the ventilation," Teichner conceded. "We don't know how we'll heat the building yet. We'll either go with gas heating or steam."

The men are leasing the space from John White, the building's owner. In addition to planning for restaurant space, White will use the building for offices and storage.

SIX BUSINESSES ARE LEASING space in the building, which stood vacant since the Cadillac Wine Co. left it in 1969.



Long an eyesore, the converted winery on Grand River in Farmington could become the city's newest restaurant if four investors succeed in their renovation attempt.



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(*) Items marked with single asterisk are either new in cartons or open floor samples.

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