

Business

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Aubrey's Construction To Begin Soon

BY EUGENIA ESTES
STAFF WRITER

Much anticipated construction activity at the Aubrey's Restaurant site will begin soon.

A groundbreaking for the restaurant was scheduled Thursday at 3 p.m. at the site on the West Andrew Johnson Highway next to the AMC Town Crossing 8 movie theater.

Construction is scheduled to start soon for the restaurant, said Kent Bewley, president and CEO of Bewley Properties that marketed the site to developer Chasan and Aubrey's Restaurant.

"This should be a really good addition for the community," Bewley said. "It is a real plus for the community, a plus for the movie theater and for Aubrey's."

The restaurant should be open in mid-March or early April, according to Bewley and Marlin White, the vice president of operations for Chasan LLC.

Randy Burleson, the owner and operator of Aubrey's, developed a relationship with Chasan



This vacant lot beside the AMC Towne Crossing 8 movie theater will soon be changing as construction on a new Aubrey's Restaurant on the site is to begin soon.

SUN FILE PHOTO BY EUGENIA ESTES

CEO Charles White in the early 2000s. The two partner in a lease-purchase agreement in the development of some of the Aubrey's locations, such as the one in Greeneville, Bewley explained. Chasan

helps finance and construct new restaurants in the agreement. After a period of time, Aubrey's purchases the restaurant from Chasan.

The restaurant chain, which is based in Knox-

ville, was looking at possible sites for a new location and with Chasan's large footprint here, Greeneville was a natural place for them to explore, he said.

"That was three years ago, and here we are,"

Bewley continued.

The restaurant chain should be a good fit for the community and has been successful in other East Tennessee communities, he said. "They have all the right ingredients — good

food, good service and good prices."

Aubrey's, launched in west Knoxville in 1992, currently has 11 locations in East Tennessee with restaurants opening in the past year in Morristown and Johnson City. The restaurant's menu features steaks, seafood, pasta dishes, chicken entrees, burgers and sandwiches served in a family dining atmosphere.

The Greeneville Aubrey's will be a single-story, 7,437 square-foot building with 137 parking spaces. The new restaurant is expected to employ 70 or 80 people, according to White.

Patrons will be able to reach the restaurant from the parking lot of the movie theater on one side and off Highway 11E at a private drive to be constructed by Bewley Properties between the Aubrey's lot and an undeveloped adjacent lot on the other side, according to the site plan.

The adjacent lots to the Aubrey's site are being marketed for uses that will complement the restaurant and movie theater, Bewley said.