

Sixth Owensboro McDonald's planned

Kentucky 54 restaurant set to open Aug. 10

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Kentucky 54 has officially arrived on the retail and restaurant scene.

Last year, Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, opened its largest Kentucky supercenter at 3151 Kentucky 54.

And this year, McDonald's, the world's largest restaurant chain, will open its sixth Owensboro location at 3328 Kentucky 54.

Ten months ago, a McDonald's spokeswoman said she was "99.9 percent certain" that the company had no plans for a restaurant on Kentucky 54.

But that changed quickly.

Plans were filed last week at City Hall for a 3,600-square-foot restaurant in Woodlands Plaza.

That's about 600 feet larger than the company's average.

Jon Rump, McDonald's marketing supervisor for the Indianapolis region, said construction on the company-owned restaurant is scheduled to begin May 19 with the store opening on Aug. 10.

"We've got it down to a science," he said of the chain's construction schedule.

But the company's construction schedule is not that much faster today than it was in 1970, when McDonald's built its first local restaurant in Wesleyan Park Plaza.

Ground was broken in August for a December opening that year.

The Kentucky 54 location, Rump said, will be in addition to the five other McDonald's in town, which will remain open.

The company has been expanding its restaurants to 24-hour service in recent months.

Plans were announced in May to convert 5,000 of the more than 30,000 locations in 119 countries to round-the-clock service.

Rump said the company hasn't decided whether the Kentucky 54 store will be open 24/7.

McDonald's, which reported revenues of \$20 billion in 2005, said in January that it plans to open 800 new restaurants this year.

Jim Mischel, the city's associate director for building and electrical, said the plans show the new McDonald's along the front of Woodlands Plaza, two lots east of Fairview Drive.

A 12,000-square-foot Chuck's Liquors is planned for the corner lot.