

Kentucky 54 attracts dining interests

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Add another Mexican restaurant to the local dining scene.

Salsarita's Fresh Cantina, a 7-year-old Charlotte, N.C.-based chain, will open a restaurant in the now-vacant strip center next to Kohl's in Woodlands Plaza in late March or early April.

The 2,500-square-foot eatery will have do-it-yourself taco and burrito bars.

The menu includes burritos, tacos, nachos, quesadillas, salads, enchiladas, pizzas and margaritas.

Salsarita's is one of the newer chains competing in the growing \$850 million "fresh-Mex" market.

If my count is right, it will be the city's ninth Mexican restaurant.

-- Quizno's fans, take note.

I still don't know why the restaurant on Frederica Street closed suddenly last spring.

But I hear the chain is about to announce a new location in Woodlands Plaza -- in the same strip center as Salsarita's.

Expect an announcement soon.

-- Kentucky 54 rumors are flying fast this winter.

I hear Logan's Roadhouse has selected a location in the new Highland Pointe development along the bypass.

That's the one where Culver's Frozen Custard and ButterBurgers announced plans to build last month.

Starbucks is supposedly about to announce a third Owensboro location -- in Woodlands Plaza.

And I'm hearing that Walgreens is also looking for a second Owensboro location out there.

-- Real estate transfers at the Daviess County Clerk's office show that Highland Pointe is getting bigger.

The developers recently paid \$1.2 million for 6.5 acres behind the Wendy's restaurant out there.

-- Home sales slowed slightly in Daviess County during the fourth quarter.

But prices were up.

The Owensboro Board of Realtors reported 304 homes sold here during the last three months of 2006 for a total of \$36.97 million.

That's an average price of \$121,622.

The average house that sold was on the market for 115 days.

Houses that didn't sell were listed an average of 238 days.

That compares with 309 houses that sold for \$35.79 million in the fourth quarter of 2005.

That was an average of \$115,825.

And the average house was on the market for 120 days.

Figures for those that didn't sell weren't listed last year.

-- Want to own your own Ace Hardware store?

The company will give away a hardware store valued at \$1 million this year.

For details, see <http://www.dreamacehardware.com/>.

-- Small-business owners aren't overly optimistic about the state of the economy this year, according to a monthly survey by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Only 10 percent of small-business owners plan to create new jobs in the next three months, the study found.