

Super Buffet coming to town

Chinese eatery in old Foodland on Kentucky 54

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The booming Kentucky 54 area will be getting its first Chinese restaurant -- reportedly one of the largest in town -- this summer.

Three Chinese businessmen from Bowling Green, headed by Tony Guang, have leased 8,400 square feet in the former Wyndall's Foodland store in Villa Point Shopping Center -- across Kentucky 54 from Wal-Mart.

When renovations are completed, a 200-seat restaurant -- Super Buffet -- will be opening there.

David Appleby of Massie-Clarke Development, which owns the shopping center, said: "We're going to totally rework the building. We still have about 14,000 square feet available after the restaurant comes in. And we're trying to find two or three more tenants for that space."

The building, which housed Wyndall's Foodland from 1983 to 2003, has about 23,000 square feet.

Remodeling it as a strip center will take five to six months, Appleby said.

Ruedeem Shartzter of Bowling Green, spokeswoman for the partners, said the group opened a Bowling Green restaurant -- Jumbo China Buffet -- three years ago and have been looking for locations within a 90-minute drive.

Owensboro will be the fifth city with a restaurant owned by the group, she said.

"It will have Chinese food and Mongolian barbecue," Shartzter said. "Mongolian barbecue has a different taste. It's quite good."

The restaurant will feature a barbecue bar, three hot tables, three cold tables and an ice cream bar, she said.

Shartzter said the restaurant will have recipes for more than 200 items.

"They won't all be on the buffet at the same time," she said. "But there will be more than 200 items. This will be one of the largest restaurants in Owensboro."

The partners chose the location, Shartzler said, because "they see the Kentucky 54 area as a growing place."

Owensboro currently has four Chinese restaurants, but there were seven here in 2001.

Massie-Clarke has about 20 acres available around Villa Point in addition to the space in the old supermarket.

"We're getting a lot of inquiries about our property out here," Appleby said. "But everybody wants to buy land. We like to build and lease."

The Kentucky 54 area has seen several restaurants opening in the past year.

Beef 'O' Brady's Family Sports Pub opened Monday at 3189 Fairview Drive.

And Montana Mike's Steakhouse and McDonald's have announced plans for Woodlands Plaza on the east side of Fairview.