

April 25, 2006

**Section:** ZONE WEST - HENDRICKS CO A.M.

**Edition:** FINAL EDITION

**Page:** W01

### **Eateries signed to open at Gables**

Chuck E. Cheese and Applebee's will locate in 2 of 5 out lots along U.S. 36

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Developers of the former Avon Recreation Center site have signed two restaurants for a new shopping center.

Applebee's and Chuck E. Cheese will occupy out lots along U.S. 36 as part of The Gables of Avon, said Bob Wildman, general counsel for the Allen Commercial Group, which is developing the property. Construction on the restaurants should begin in May.

Wildman said the company would like to have the restaurants and other shops open this fall.

The 26-acre Gables of Avon development will feature a 150,000-square-foot strip shopping center for clothing, housewares and other stores. Five out lots, totaling 25,000 square feet along U.S. 36, likely would be used for restaurants and a bank, Wildman said. He said the developer is talking with banks for the out lot at the intersection of Gable Drive and U.S. 36.

Wildman said Applebee's and Chuck E. Cheese will be a good fit for the project.

"They are good, solid national companies, the thing we'd like to see here," he said.

The Gables of Avon also will bring changes for drivers on U.S. 36. A traffic light will be installed late this summer at the intersection of Gable Drive and U.S. 36 to accommodate increased traffic.

A shopping center on Gable Drive has been in the works for several years. The developers went before town officials in 2002 with proposals for a strip shopping mall, but residents in a small neighborhood off Gable Drive opposed the project. This year, the town, residents and developers reached a consensus on issues such as lighting, landscaping and noise.

The Gables of Avon is the Allen Commercial Group's second retail project in Hendricks County. Groundbreaking on Linden Square, a 51,000-square-foot retail and office center southwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Raceway Road, also is set to begin this spring.

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