

## Cowley's plans February opening

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The re-building of Cowley's Old Village Inn on Grand River is on schedule, with plans to set steel Monday and enclose the building by Thanksgiving Day.

A "soft" re-opening is planned for February. A black tie charity benefit event is also under discussion for a grand opening, which will be invitation only.

"A unique feature is that food will be on a wood burning grill which will cast an aroma throughout Farmington and will make people want to eat," said Greg Cowley, who co-owns the establishment.

Cowley spoke at a council meeting where council members approved notification to

the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to transfer stock ownership. Cowley's parents own controlling interest in the corporation and the children split the rest.

"The reconstruction of the Cowley's Old Village Inn will be a significant economic development improvement for downtown Farmington. It will add a food venue and entertainment location which for many people will be a destination location," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff.

Cowley announced at a recent Farmington City Council meeting that his father, John, had reluctantly retired. Cowley's original building, erected in 1940, was razed to make way for the new two-story pub.

"I'm thinking we found every water line

PLEASE SEE COWLEY, A6

## COWLEY

FROM PAGE A1

and gas line," Cowley said of the construction process. "It's funny how construction people never hit electrical lines."

The 7,000-square-foot building will have a no-smoking, casual atmosphere with a full kitchen in the lower level. Upstairs will be a full-service bar and entertainment.

"We're looking to facilitate more walk-in traffic," Cowley said.

All the furniture, millwork and bars are being built in Belfast and will arrive between Dec. 5 and January 20.

"Overseas there are suppliers for Guinness who supply these pubs," Cowley said. "It's a lot cheaper to have it done there rather than have it custom built here in the states."

The Cowleys have hired a general manager from Kansas City who will relocate to Farmington and has fine dining experience. He's worked for Houlihan's and the Disney Corporation. Greg's brother-in-law, who also worked at Disney, will be the chef.

"We have a pretty good team plus the number of locals you have been familiar with who will be back," Cowley said. "I think it will be a viable asset to the community. All my neighbors in Farmington over by the Governor Warner Mansion will now be attending because they want non-smoking."

Farmington Clerk/Treasurer Patsy Cantrell said it must be wonderful and memorable for Greg's parents to watch such growth.

"Sunday afternoon dinners are exciting and volatile, depending on your perspective," Cowley said. "It's been a lot of fun."

He added they are excited - and 10 percent over budget.

"My payroll budget is 300 times what it was, or will be," Cowley said. "We'll be hiring a lot of staff and will include valet (parking). Applications will be taken at the trailer after Thanksgiving and we'll do the interviewing and hiring process and training in the month of January."

Cowley's will continue to have dart boards, which will be posted in a non-traffic area as well as darts leagues upstairs on Tuesday nights.