

News Clips Report

Chick-fil-A set to open second Alexandria location in 2010 Alexandria Daily Town Talk - Online

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Chick-fil-A plans to open a second restaurant in Alexandria, at the corner of Jackson Street and MacArthur Drive, within a few months.

"We're excited about joining that community," said Jerry Johnston, senior manager of public relations for Chick-fil-A Inc. "We want to be there long term."

The lot was the location of Broussard's Exxon Servicecenter. Johnston said plans are to start construction in early November and open in mid-March 2010.

Chick-fil-A has a restaurant in the Alexandria Mall. The new restaurant will be a "standalone," which can provide several advantages, including drive-through service.

A standalone restaurant also can set its own hours, as opposed to the location in the mall, which is tied to mall hours. Johnston said the new restaurant will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., allowing it to serve breakfast.

"We don't open a lot of restaurants," Johnston said. "We typically open around 70 or so a year. We do a lot of market research when we are evaluating a site for a standalone restaurant.

"Some of the factors we look at are vehicular traffic in the area. Is it a growing community? Is there an office setting, as well, that can provide steady customers for breakfast, lunch and dinner?"

The corner the restaurant will be on is one of the busiest intersections in Alexandria. There also will be access to Chick-fil-A from the popular MacArthur Village Shopping Center -- which includes Kroger, Staples and Hastings -- according to **Townsend Underhill with Stirling Properties**, which owns the shopping center and sold the property on the corner to Chick-fil-A.

"We think this will complement our location in the mall," Johnston said. "For a number of folks, it will be more convenient."