

## Steakhouse owners want to build by outlets

### Montana's owners plan Cannon's Chop House

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SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP – A familiar steakhouse is seeking to open in Springfield Township.

Representatives of Thomas Construction builders attended the township planning commission meeting Monday about their preliminary land development plan for a venture with developer 79 Restaurant Group LLC and Charlie and Tanya Bish.

"We're trying to get everything moving," Charlie Bish said in a phone interview Tuesday.

The Bishes, along with partners from out of town, want to open Cannon's Chop House, which will have the same cuisine as the Bishes' Montana's Rib & Chop Houses in their hometown of Meadville as well as in Hermitage and Canonsburg: fresh seafood as well as steak and barbecue ribs and more.

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**Charlie Bish,**  
restaurant developer

They successfully ran a Montana's in Miles City, Mont., which they sold, and it still operates, he said.

The Montana's franchise operates in Utah and Wyoming, he noted.

The Bishes sold that business because they wanted to move back to western Pennsylvania and opened the Meadville restaurant in 2009, he said.

The developer wants to buy land at the entrance of Outlets Drive across from Hoss's, which was developed – including a traffic light installed on state Route 208 at the entrance – to have multiple parcels to lease for business.

Right now a Marriott

is in the development. Cannon's will be a lease holder, Bish said.

"It's our fourth one in Pennsylvania. It's been a lot of work and pretty much what we're focused on," he added.

Cannon is the middle name of their son, chosen to honor good friend Ralph Cannon, who died five years ago.

"He was a very influential man in my life," Bish said.

The new name of the steak house gives it "sentimental value," but it's the only change being made to the new restaurant that's different from the others, he noted.

Tom Gregg, vice president of operation for Thomas Construction, in Pine Township, has gone to two planning commission meetings regarding the restaurant. Thomas will build the restaurant.

Last month, at a pre-approval conference with the planners, Gregg proposed the restaurant group's intent to build another Montana's. However, Gregg said on

Monday they wanted a new name for this venture.

On Monday, Gregg

asked to have final approval of the land development plan 14 days early for construction to be done in time for a Nov. 1 opening.

However, the township's laws require a 28-day window before a new land development can be approved for construction.

The planning commission gives the township supervisors a recommendation for or against a development plan. Supervisors make the final decision.

Before it can be recommended, a plan must be looked over by township, county and state agencies, said planning chair Tim Dumbroski.

It's possible the group could get final approval early, he added, but he didn't give any guarantees at the meeting.

"We're excited to be there. Grove City is a natural progression for us. I lived there in the '90s," said Bish, who has stepchildren who graduated from Grove City schools and who are in the business now.

"We're staying with what's successful," he said.