



Former Del's space in Bloomfield gets new tenant



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Sugar and Smoke is poised to open in the former Del's Bar and Ristorante DelPizzo space in Bloomfield, a relatively quick turnaround for a restaurant to land in the spot vacated by the short-lived Jabo's.

By early September, Andrea Robinson will open a full-service restaurant in the 6,000-square-foot space, where she'll focus on barbecue from Texas to the Carolinas with a menu put together by caterer [Chaz Smith](#). Look for dishes like brisket, turkey ribs, po'boys, etouffee and jambalaya. The property includes a parking lot, banquet room and patio.

about a year, closing in April.

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Ms. Robinson, formerly in chemical manufacturing with experience in the food and beverage industry, says she has been smitten with regional barbecue and Southern-style hospitality and intends to marry the two in her new restaurant.

Restaurant broker Terri Sokoloff, of Specialty Group, put together the deal.

“I’m excited for both Andrea and the Bloomfield community in getting a full-service restaurant and bar ... in a neighborhood that takes pride in their community and local growth,” she said in a press release.

The debut marks the evolution of this section of Bloomfield. Since [Jabo’s shuttered](#) and Bloomfield Bridge Tavern closed in October, Derek Burnell of Round Corner Cantina in Lawrenceville has also started plans for the former Feng Japanese Steakhouse location (4305 Main St.), with a concept-in-progress.

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The fate of the ShurSave IGA grocery store at 4401 Liberty Ave. is also in flux, potentially making way for the Indianapolis-based Milhaus development of a 200-plus unit apartment complex. Community groups have turned out to express concern at neighborhood meetings regarding safety for pedestrians and bicyclists with the potential for construction and increased traffic near the [Bloomfield Bridge](#).

Community activist Bruce Chan, chair of Bloomfield Livable Streets, also noted in a letter to Milhaus said Vice President Thomas Bost the importance of affordability in housing and beyond for residents, and for a continued presence of a grocery store in the neighborhood.

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