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‘We’re all really excited’



Developers behind a possible Chick-Fil-A coming to Hartland Township have swapped locations along M-59, altering the proposal from demolishing a former Burger King to demolishing a former Big Boy. PROVIDED BY HARTLAND TOWNSHIP DOCUMENTS

Officials pleased with new location for Hartland Chick-fil-A

Makayla Coffee
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

HHARTLAND TWP. – Developers behind a possible Chick-Fil-A coming to Hartland Township have swapped locations along M-59, altering the proposal from demolishing a former Burger King to demolishing a former Big Boy.

The popular fast food restaurant shared a new conceptual plan with the Hartland Township Planning Commission on Aug. 28 for 10587 Highland Road (M-59). The second proposed location previously held the last Big Boy in Livingston County, which closed in 2023 after 41 years in business. The initial proposal was located at 10382 Highland Road, but

nearby residents shared ample concerns about traffic along that stretch. Leslie Accardo with PEA Group spoke on behalf of the project she called “Hartland 2.0.” Developers are hoping to reuse as much of the site’s exterior as possible, she said, demolishing the existing restaurant building

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Could Sheetz lower gas prices?

Makayla Coffee
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

HARTLAND TWP. – Locals hope a proposal from Sheetz could bring much-needed competition and relief to other gas stations in Hartland Township. The convenience store and gas station brand is known for serving hot food, custom coffee drinks and other essentials for drivers. Sheetz launched in Pennsylvania in 1952, and recently expanded to Michigan with a location in Romulus. The proposed development in Hartland Township is located at 10081 Highland Road (M-59), the former Walgreens and Chase Bank. The company would demolish the property’s existing building and construct an approximately 6,132-square-foot building on 2.92 acres with 12 pumps. The plan was discussed during a meeting of the Hartland Township Planning Commission on Aug. 28, during which officials voted to approve an amended site plan and recommend approval of the Planned Development Agreement to the Board of Trustees. The business would be open 24/7, with 48 parking spots, two air stations and indoor/outdoor dining. Alex Siwicki, who spoke on behalf of Sheetz on Aug. 28, said the location would bring about 35 jobs to the area. Despite overall support for the project, commissioners and residents worried about increased traffic at an already congested intersection. Michael Cain, a resident, called Sheetz “a great company,” but called on commissioners to consider what changes can be made to remedy traffic

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Applebee’s chose Howell for Dan Campbell cameo

Makayla Coffee
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Lions head coach Dan Campbell is eatin’ good in the neighborhood, and that neighborhood is Howell. Livingston County residents might recognize a familiar Applebee’s in some of the company’s newest commercials featuring Campbell. John Peyton, president of Applebee’s and CEO of Dine Brands, confirmed portions of the 2025 campaign were filmed at 3949 E. Grand River Ave. in Genoa Township. It’s the second year Campbell has participated in a campaign. In last year’s installments, Campbell was an assistant shift manager. This year, he’s been promoted to head shift manager. Peyton said the restaurant’s recent renovation and employees made Genoa Township the perfect spot to film, especially since the company wanted a location “that felt authentic to (Metro Detroit).”

“Beyond the aesthetics, the local team at Howell was incredibly enthusiastic and welcoming – they were genuinely excited to be part of the campaign, which made the experience even more special,” Peyton said. “It was the perfect combination of location, energy, and team spirit.” Filming took place over a few packed days, Peyton wrote, adding the group was able to film both the main campaign and a lot of behind-the-scenes content. Peyton wrote that continuing the partnership was a “no-brainer,” and the company has expanded the cast to include a rookie and a vet. Applebee’s also leaned into Campbell’s unscripted moments. The campaign launched Aug. 18 to highlight the restaurant’s new “Ultimate Trio” combination, under which diners can select three appetizers and three sauces for \$14.99. New content is expected to roll out throughout the NFL season across television and social media.



Detroit Lions coach Dan Campbell shoots a commercial for Applebee’s. PROVIDED BY APPLEBEE’S

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