Pizza shop approved for North Star Plaza

2-24-05

Despite objections from residents of the Shadow Bend subdivision, the Wheeling Village Board will allow Bellacino's Pizza and Grinders to move into the North Star Plaza shopping center on Milwaukee Avenue.

A half-dozen Shadow Bend residents who attended a recent board meeting said they are worried about litter and parking at the restaurant, and are especially concerned about odors. Residents also said William Hein, representing North Star owner Alex Babitsky, had misrepresented what types of businesses the plaza would attract.

Hein, the residents said, promised "high-end" retail establishments moving into the plaza. They questioned whether that was actually happening, and they said they do not consider a pizza and sandwich shop a high-end retailer.

Hein said he always said the plaza would contain a "food or ice-cream-type operation." He considers Bellacino's a good fit because the restaurant will not be using deep fryers or other cooking devices that would create thick, smelly smoke.

"I think the residents, once they see it and see how it's done, are going to enjoy it," he said.

Bellacino's offers pizzas, salads and oven-baked sandwiches at its other locations. Bellacino's has Illinois locations in Springfield and Peoria.