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L'Ecole demolished, new restaurant soon?

By Nicole Fay Barr

GUILDERLAND —

Stuyvesant Plaza is closer to building a new restaurant in place of L'Ecole Encore, which closed in December of 2001.

The closed eatery was torn down recently and a new one will be built, according to Janet Kaplan, vice president of real estate for Stuyvesant Plaza. L'Ecole Encore leased the Fuller Road parcel from the plaza, as will the new restaurant.

Kaplan would not say, however, what the new restaurant will be or when construction on it will begin.

Last October, Stuyvesant Plaza, Inc., the corporation that owns the Stuyvesant Plaza shopping center, received approval from the town's zoning board to build a 6,000-square-foot restaurant in place of L'Ecole Encore.

Guilderland's Chief Building Inspector and Zoning Administrator Donald Cropsey Jr. told *The Enterprise* this week that the plaza's zoning permit stands, but he does not know any details about the new restaurant or its construction timeline.

Stuyvesant Plaza Inc. still needs to come to the zoning department for a building permit, he added.

James Schultz, an attorney for

the corporation, told the zoning board last October that the L'Ecole Encore building was "desperately in need of repair."

He said Stuyvesant Plaza, Inc. plans to merge two parcels into one for the restaurant — a vacant lot owned by the corporation and the old restaurant's lot. The new parcel would be 2.03 acres.

While no plans had been made for a specific eatery, neighbors of the plaza appealed to the zoning board to consider the noise, traffic, and extra lighting that a new business would bring.

The zoning board discussed those issues at last year's meeting and approved the proposed restaurant's parking arrangements with conditions on noise.

Don Reeb, president of the McKownville Improvement Association, spoke to the zoning board that night and to *The Enterprise* this week.

He's still concerned with the parking for the new restaurant, Reeb said Tuesday. If customers park in the additional lot, they would have to cross Executive Drive to get to the restaurant, which is dangerous, he said.

Residents of McKownville are also still concerned with noise, lighting, and an increase in traffic, Reeb said.