

Bowling-restaurant combo hopes to strike it big

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Dale Schwartz was an avid bowler while growing up in Cleveland. His love of the sport led him to draw up plans to create an upscale bowling alley with leather couches, a gourmet dinner menu and servers.

After sitting on the idea for over 20 years, waiting for the right time and making sure he had enough capital to fund the idea properly, Schwartz opened the first Pinstripes bowling and bocce bistro last year in Northbrook and recently broke ground for his second location -- The Arboretum of South Barrington shopping center.

Pinstripes in South Barrington will have 20 bowling lanes, 10 bocce courts, an Italian-American dining menu and an extensive wine list as Schwartz hopes to build off the success of the Northbrook location, which opened in May 2007. The Northbrook location charges \$5 per game bowling from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and \$7 from 5 until close. It charges \$8 per person for bocce during the early hours and \$10 from 5 p.m. until close.

"Having Pinstripes at The Arboretum fits in perfectly with our goals. We want to offer Barrington residents a full dining, shopping and entertainment experience they can't get anywhere else in Chicago," said Michael Jaffe, owner of The Jaffe Companies, contractor for The Arboretum

The 40,000-square-foot Pinstripes is expected to open in late October and will be located near Gold Class Cinemas, an upscale movie theater chain.

"The Arboretum is on a whole different level in terms of quality and sophistication than other developments," Schwartz said.

Pinstripes General Manager Chris Soukup said the staff focused on creating a country club atmosphere with the service and architecture of the building and believes Pinstripes will fit in well with the "lifestyle center" theme of The Arboretum.

"The Arboretum is surrounded by a number of great, sophisticated communities," Schwartz said.

Pinstripes will have a party room for corporate events and other functions and runs its own leagues and events such as wine tastings throughout the year, Schwartz said .

"We offer a unique and fun experience for all weddings, bar mitzvahs, birthdays, social dates, corporate events and parties, and your regular group of friends showing up to relax and dine together," he said.

Schwartz said he added bocce--an Italian form of lawn bowling--after seeing it being played in California three years ago.

"There's something for kids of all ages from tots to seniors," said Pinstripes Event Director Sandie Montgomery.

Schwartz is looking into opening a third Pinstripes location near Hinsdale and eventually going national.

For more information on Pinstripes, visit its Web site, www.pinstripes.com.