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## Ruth's Chris signs on for Arboretum in S. Barrington

By Eddie Baeb

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(Crain's) — Ruth's Chris Steak House Inc. and apparel retailer Soft Surroundings are planning to open stores next year at a new retail complex in South Barrington.

The two companies have signed leases at the 600,000-square-foot Arboretum of South Barrington, which is to open fall 2008, according to a statement from the mall's developer, Jaffe Cos.

Heathrow, Fla.-based Ruth's Chris has leased about 11,000 square feet while Soft Surroundings, which currently has one store near hometown St. Louis and will open another in Connecticut, plans to lease 5,368 square feet. Ruth's Chris has 107 locations worldwide, including locally downtown Chicago and in Northbrook.

Ruth's Chris restaurants have average sales of about \$5.8 million per location, up 38% from \$4.2 million in 2005, company officials said earlier this month.

Other tenants also on board at the Arboretum, which is under construction at a former tree nursery at the intersection of Routes 59 and 72, include: Chico's, DSW shoe store and Panera Bread, according to Northbrook-based Jaffe Cos.

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