

Board grants license to Plaza Azteca

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The corporate heads of a new Mexican restaurant, along with their attorney came before the Calvert County Liquor Board Thursday evening, Aug. 22. After the three company officers had rendered testimony and answered questions, the board unanimously granted Plaza Azteca of Prince Frederick Inc. a Class B Liquor License pending the passage of the local inspections and permits process.

The corporation president, Luis Rodriguez, gave his pledge that the business would be a great addition to the town's culinary community.

"I will run a tight operation, said Rodriguez, who has been the manager at Monterrey in Lusby where he affirmed he has had no problems with liquor sales. "If you don't have I.D. you're not getting served."

Plaza Azteca will be located on Sherry Lane in the building previously occupied by Jasper's American Grille. That restaurant opened late last decade amid much fanfare and appeared to be attracting significant crowds, especially on weekends, with parking on Sherry Lane at a premium. However, the eatery still went belly-up after only four years in operation. In October 2011 the restaurant owners announced Jasper's was closing due to an inability to negotiate a new lease agreement.

Rodriguez said he still has not hired a full staff but intends to employ 25 to 30 people, all of whom will be certified to serve beer, wine and liquor.

The restaurant will be open from 11 a.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday and from noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Rodriguez stated he might request special permission from the liquor board to stay open and serve beverages for a longer period on May 5—Cinco de Mayo. However, board chair Beth Swoap pointed out the panel does not have authority to grant such permission, even though there have been three attempts to get the Maryland General Assembly to allow this.

Two other corporation officers—Miguel Lopez and Abrea Rodriguez—also have experience in the Mexican restaurant business at locations in St. Mary's County.

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