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## **ZAXBY'S HATCHES FIRST DALLAS COUNTY LOCATION MONDAY**

### *Residents of Richardson to Get Taste of Chain's Prepared-at-Order Chicken*

**RICHARDSON, Texas** (Feb. 18, 2009) — Zaxby's, a longtime Southeast favorite for chicken fingers and Buffalo wings, and one of the nation's fastest-growing restaurant chains, is spreading its wings again in the Lone Star State. The 465-unit restaurant chain's first location in Dallas County will open its doors on Monday in Richardson. The new Zaxby's is located at 526 Centennial Blvd., in front of Kroger, and will operate from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

"We are extremely excited to be introducing yet another Zaxby's to the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area," said Zach McLeroy, Zaxby's co-founder and CEO. "Zaxby's has received a great reception from Tarrant and Denton county residents with the opening of our first three locations last year, and I am confident this newest location in Richardson will also be a big hit with the Dallas community."

"Our fast-casual concept is perfect for people who are looking for a freshly prepared, delicious meal at a price point that won't put a big dent in their wallets," added McLeroy. Guests order and pick up their meals at the counter and eat in a dining room similar in style to a casual dining restaurant, with comfortable booths and tables. "Our team members provide warm and friendly service that guests want to come back for again and again. And in these unsteady economic times, guests like that they can sit down in a relaxing environment and don't have to bother with a wait staff."

Zaxby's success is rooted in a simple operating philosophy developed by its founders that has matured into the company's mission statement — "consistently create encore experiences that enrich lives one person at a time." That statement is not only the driving force behind the company's pursuit to provide delicious food and excellent customer service, it's also what helps the company create a fun work atmosphere for employees.

### **Menu & Restaurant Design**

Zaxby's differs from its competitors at other chicken restaurants because its menu items are prepared at order. Zaxby's most popular items are its hand-breaded Chicken Fingerz and Jumbo Buffalo Wings, smothered in a choice of nine sauces with zesty names like Wimpy, Tongue Torch, Nuclear and Insane. The menu also offers innovative Zappetizers — Onion Rings, Tater Chips (home-style potato chips) and Spicy Fried Mushrooms, as well as a variety of Party Platterz perfect for any family gathering or special occasion.

Zaxby's also offers three salads, or Zalads: The House, The Blue and The Caesar. All are prepared at order, with grilled or fried chicken, three kinds of lettuce, shredded cheese, fresh veggies and juicy tomatoes. Customers have a choice of buffaloed or blackened chicken when ordering The Blue. All of Zaxby's Zalads offer more chicken and unique ingredients, such as French-fried onions, and are larger than most salads offered elsewhere. Each Zalad is assembled at the time the order is placed, versus being pre-made and stored in a cooler.

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Zaxby's is also bringing its fresh restaurant design to Texas. Guests will notice interior floor-to-ceiling brick walls and large windows providing natural light, all complemented by an eclectic mix of photography and interior and exterior signage. The restaurant is 3,195 square feet and can comfortably seat 72 guests. Zaxby's also provides drive-thru and phone-in services to meet the needs of customers on the go.

"The entire Richardson restaurant team is excited with the way the new restaurant looks and feels," said District Manager Eduardo Caceres. "I think residents who have never before heard of Zaxby's or indulged in the indescribably good food are in for quite a pleasant surprise. We've had a few employee training sessions where we invited residents and businesspeople of Richardson, and we appreciate the warm welcome they've given us."

### **Texas Growth Areas**

Zaxby's laid its Texas foundation in March 2008 with the opening of its first Dallas-Fort Worth location in Mansfield. The chain also operates locations in Keller and The Colony, and more are expected in the near future. While these first few locations will be management-owned, franchise-licensing opportunities are available to help fuel growth in the state. Company officials think the Texas market can support as many as 250 restaurants, with about 50 of those in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Zaxby's system is 80 percent franchisee-owned, with the rest corporate-owned. Restaurants typically have 30 – 50 team members employed in management, kitchen and cashier positions.

"We are confident that once area residents and entrepreneurs experience our food and service, they will want to bring a Zaxby's to their own communities as well," McLeroy said. "We have many successful licensees who started out as Zaxby's guests who just loved the food."

In addition to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the company is looking at Austin, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Corpus Christi, Houston, Laredo, Tyler-Longview and Waco-Temple-Bryan for future development. Interested entrepreneurs can visit [zaxbysfranchising.com](http://zaxbysfranchising.com) for more information.

### **Zaxby's Stats**

Zaxby's now operates its 465 restaurants throughout 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Its largest market is Atlanta, with more than 60 locations in the metro area.

Zaxby's is headquartered in Athens, Ga. The company opened its first restaurant in Statesboro, Ga., in March 1990, and by December 2005 observed its 300th opening in Dallas, Ga. In 2007 Zaxby's opened its 400th location in Macon, Ga.

### **How it All Started**

Zaxby's founders Zach McLeroy and Tony Townley looked around their community and saw plenty of fast food or sit-down dining options. Feeling something was missing, they decided to provide the freshest chicken fingers and Buffalo wings in town. That hatched a simple idea to create a fun atmosphere where food quality is of the utmost importance. In 1990, they opened the first Zaxby's in Statesboro, Ga. The concept, one of the early "quick-casual" restaurants, proved successful.

McLeroy and Townley opened four more restaurants, and in 1994, they began to franchise the brand. The food and service were so popular, the Athens, Ga.-based chain has boomed to 465 units in 11 states and continues to grow. For more information visit [www.zaxbys.com](http://www.zaxbys.com).