

Two Brothers nears deal for Oak Park restaurant

By [Peter Frost](#) February 01, 2017

The family behind Two Brothers Brewing has signed a letter of intent to purchase the longtime home of Marion Street Cheese Market in downtown Oak Park with plans to make it **their fifth restaurant**.

Should the sale go through, brothers Jason and Jim Ebel would take over the 5,000-square-foot, ground-floor space, where they'd open a full-service restaurant showcasing Two Brothers beers and a coffee shop serving its own line of coffee.

The spot, a separately owned unit inside a condominium building, has been vacant since the 10-year-old Marion Street Cheese Market closed abruptly Sept. 4, just months after a **several hundred thousand-dollar renovation**, which included an upgraded kitchen ventilation system, cosmetic changes and the addition of about 30 seats.

The deal has not yet closed; terms were not available. "There's no indication that this is not going to move forward," said Masaru Takiguchi, an attorney representing the seller, Mary Jo Schuler. "With any commercial deal like this one, everyone's got to do their due diligence, and that takes time. We expect to be able to wrap things up in the coming weeks."

A spokesman for Two Brothers confirmed the company's interest in the property but declined to provide more details since a formal deal has not yet been signed.

TWO BROTHER'S EXPANSION

Two Brothers would take over the space amid a **construction boom in downtown Oak Park** that's bringing nearly 800 new luxury apartments to the west suburban village. Two new towers—the 20-story, 271-unit Elevate Oak Park and the 21-story, 270-unit Vantage Oak Park are already under construction. A third, a 263-unit, 12-story building, is scheduled to break ground soon.

The Ebels sold their first keg of Ebel's Weiss in 1997 and have since grown into a multifaceted food and beverage company they're intent on expanding.

Along with its flagship 40,000-square-foot Warrenville brewery, Two Brothers owns the 70,000-square-foot Roundhouse in Aurora, where it has another brewery, a distillery, a restaurant and an events venue. The company also operates an Arizona beer and cider distribution house and an 8,000-square-foot brewery and taphouse in Scottsdale.

Last fall, they opened a 12,000-square-foot, three-floor food and beer emporium in downtown Naperville called Craftsman. On the first floor is a coffee bar, bakery, deli and market with an in-house butcher. The

second floor features a high-end farm-to-table restaurant focusing on local produce and steaks and seafood. The third floor has an indoor/outdoor cocktail lounge with a speakeasy vibe. It serves small plates.

Two Brothers **last fall closed on a \$6.6 million deal** to acquire a 20-acre plot in Warrenton where it intends to break ground in 2018 on a multi-use campus near Route 59 and Butterfield Road. The Ebels are planning to build in phases, starting with a 75,000-square-foot brewery that could open as soon as late 2019. That will be followed by a restaurant, coffee roastery, distillery, barrel-aging facility and an events space.
