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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Novak Construction On The Road Again for Two New Portillo's as Restaurant Celebrates Golden Milestone**

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Frigid temperatures and a little snow did not stop the 50<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking for Portillo's as government and media personalities of two Midwest cities celebrated the restaurant chain in their communities. Novak Construction led two well-attended ceremonies for the new 9,000sf Portillo's in Woodbury, MN yesterday and in Champaign, IL last Friday. Portillo's CEO, Keith Kinsey, addressed those gathered at each ceremony and noted that these locations will serve as springboards for further expansion in the region and, many hope, across the country. Portillo's has already expanded to Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana and Wisconsin. Also joining Kinsey from Portillo's was Sam Herston (VP – Restaurant Devt.) and the respective mayors, Mary Guiliani Stephens (Woodbury) and Deborah Frank Feinen (Champaign).

For Novak, each four-acre site includes demolition of existing buildings, new site utilities, curbs, asphalt paving, and site improvements. The restaurants are precast structures with full brick exterior, patio and architectural steel elements. Champaign's is highlighted with a 1950s diner theme with décor from the decommissioned Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul. Woodbury will feature 1920s Prohibition-era that will include photos of Chicago-based gangsters, such as Al Capone.

Project Director and Novak Vice President-Restaurant Group, Dan Moriarity, noted that Novak Construction is very proud to be a part of Portillo's growth and popularity. "We meet the deadlines no matter what the weather. Our shared goal is to contribute to Portillo's success and have new customers become as addicted to this menu as we are in Chicago."

Both restaurants are scheduled to open in Spring 2017 and both will employ around 200 employees each.

**ABOUT NOVAK CONSTRUCTION**

Celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> year, Novak Construction ([www.novakconstruction.com](http://www.novakconstruction.com)), founded by John Novak in 1980, is a top tier, nationally-recognized General Contractor and Construction Management firm known for its well-rounded portfolio and many projects in the retail, industrial, corporate, institutional, healthcare, hospitality, and multi-family/mixed-use sectors. Novak Construction has consistently been named as one of Chicago's Top General Contractors. In October 2015, Novak Construction Company was awarded AIA Chicago's Design Excellence Award - General Contractor for its *By The Hand Club for Kids* project.

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