

Mall leases going fast

South Barrington panel OKs plans for new Arboretum center

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Developers of The Arboretum, the sprawling shopping center planned for the northeast corner of Route 59 and Higgins Road, said Wednesday they've leased roughly half the complex's storefronts — even with its projected opening still 18 months away.

The announcement came on the same day the South Barrington plan commission signed off on site plans for the project, which has been in the works for more than a year.

Village board members are expected to give the final green light early next month.

"We're delighted with the progress," said Scott Lucas, president of the Nashville-based New Paradigm Development Partners. "Things are going exceedingly well, both in terms of our work with the village and with finding tenants."

Lucas — whose company is partnering with the Northbrook-based Jaffe Companies on the project — said he hopes to announce a tentative roster of tenants sometime next month.

About two-thirds of the 125 stores, he said, will sell apparel, with the remaining third split between home furnishings shops and restaurants.

He said many tenants are banking on spill-over traffic from other nearby retail offerings — most notably the Target-anchored Poplar Creek Crossing shopping center across the street and the Cabela's hunting, fishing and camping store slated for the Prairie Stone business park a few miles to the west.

"These tenants are very excited about their neighbors and the explosion of progress that they're seeing in this area," Lucas said.

The Arboretum — which takes its name from the tree nursery that once inhabited the corner — sits directly south of the recently approved Woods of South Barrington subdivision, which will bring some 400 homes to the village's southwest corner.

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