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New developments quickly taking shape in Morrisville

If you live in Morrisville chances are you head out of town for major shopping, fine dining or doctors' appointments.

Mayor Jan Faulkner said she wants that to change. On Tuesday she outlined some of the plans quickly taking shape to make Morrisville more of a "live, work, play" community.

Among them are high-end retail and big-box stores, upscale restaurants and medical offices.

"All of these things, to me, help build us as a community," Faulkner said at a Morrisville Chamber of Commerce economic development forum. The forum was held at the Embassy Suites in Cary.

Plans in the works include:

- Park West Village, a controversial development at the site of the former Bristol-Meyers plant, is expected to be partially open in 2009. The developer should announce tenants within 30-60 days, according to its leasing department.

Faulkner said the manufacturing plant has been torn down and that the developer will be recycling some of the materials for "road construction and some other things. ... I think that's very positive, to use such a huge plant and not send it on to the landfill," she said.

The development was approved in January after community opposition to the large scope and related traffic concerns.

- Construction is getting started at Shiloh Crossing, a large mixed-use development — which also drew controversy during the approval process — at N.C. 54 and Interstate 540. The anchors are a Super Wal-Mart and a Sam's Club, which has a targeted opening for October. Construction is also getting started on several outparcels.
- The Shoppes at Airport Boulevard and an ESuites Hotel are planned for Airport Boulevard between N.C. 54 and I-40.
- The owners of the Morrisville Outlet Mall are still considering their options for redevelopment of that center, Faulkner said. There had been talk of an upscale retail and hotel redevelopment at the site.

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- Developers of Morrisville Manor, a senior housing development near Park West and the first for seniors in Morrisville, have asked for a year extension but the project is still planned.
- The Market at Perimeter Park, part of a 3 million square-foot office and commercial complex west of Airport Boulevard, will have shops and restaurants suitable for business lunching for the many office workers in the area, said Jeff Sheehan of Duke Realty Corporation, the developer.
- Time Warner Cable plans to build its \$35 million headquarters in Perimeter Park.
- In addition, Duke Realty plans to open the Duke Health Medical Office building at Perimeter Park.

Sheehan said that from his vantage point, development in the Triangle "is doing pretty good" compared to other markets in the country.

Contact Wendy Lemus at 460-2605 or wlemus@nando.com.

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