

Beyond red dirt, work goes on

North Hills project moves at 'full speed'

By NIKOLE HANNAH
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Curious folks who have driven by the former North Hills Mall lately are asking: What is that mountainous pile of red dirt that is obstructing the view of the construction site?

According to property owner John Kane, it's progress.

"We're moving full-speed ahead," Kane said of his development project, now simply called "North Hills."

When completed next year, a mixed-

use plaza of residential and commercial buildings will sit on the land formerly occupied by North Hills Mall and its plaza across Lassiter Mill Road.

The large mound came from dirt that was moved around to prevent water from draining from the site, Kane said.

He said that the project, which began with the demolition of the 40-year-old mall in May, is running on schedule, despite recent rains.

"I don't think weather held us up," Kane said. "In fact, it helped to keep the dust down. Those sites can get very dusty."

Besides moving dirt around, construction workers have begun putting in footings and utility lines. Kane said



Construction worker William Sessoms enjoys a cool drink while standing guard at the main gate of the North Hills site.

STAFF PHOTO BY JIM BOUNDS

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passers-by "will start seeing steel going up in the next 30 to 60 days."

The development is still scheduled for an October 2004 opening.

In three to four weeks, developers intend to start demolishing the former post office and the old First Citizens Bank building across Lassiter Mill Road.

Those buildings will be replaced with a mix of offices, shops and two condominium projects. There will be 300 rental condominiums in one building and 70 luxury condominiums in another.

The former mall site will house a 14-screen Marquee theater, a 130,000-square-foot Target store, a 150-room hotel, various offices and an open-air shopping area.

The JCPenney store will remain in the new development and is staying open throughout the renovation. Also still open are the Wachovia, Firestone and Exxon businesses in the parking lot. LensCrafters is temporarily operating out of a mobile unit in the parking lot.

Kane said the site is 80 percent preleased, but he declined to release the names of any other tenants now. He said he expects to make an announcement in the next couple of weeks.




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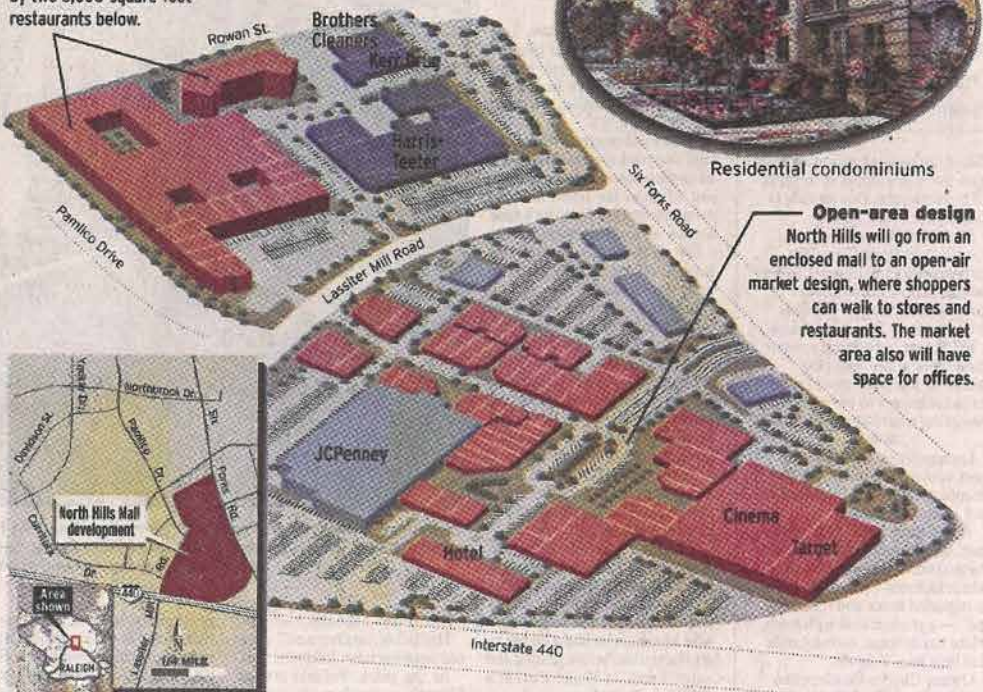
A NEW NORTH HILLS

Resembling a self-contained city, "the new" North Hills will include retail shops, residential living and commercial offices facing Six Forks and Lassiter Mill roads.

Condominiums

The project will include two separate condos. One will be four stories. The other will have eight stories supported by two 6,000-square-foot restaurants below.

-  Existing structures
-  Renovated existing structures
-  New construction



Residential condominiums

Open-area design
North Hills will go from an enclosed mall to an open-air market design, where shoppers can walk to stores and restaurants. The market area also will have space for offices.

Source: Kane Realty Corporation

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