

Developer: Boom not over

Kohl's is newest addition

02/26/06

By [Keith Lawrence](#)
Messenger-Inquirer

The opening of Kohl's Department Store this week at 3440 Villa Point Drive in Woodlands Plaza means that all but four of the projects that have been announced along Kentucky 54 have been completed.

**Kohl's
employee
Eric Clark
stocks
watches in
a display
case
Thursday
in the
jewelry
department
in
preparation
for the
store's
grand
opening
March 2.
Clark is a
register
supervisor.
Photos by
John
Dunham,
M-I**

Bob Evans Farms opened its 155-seat restaurant in front of the Wal-Mart Supercenter on Monday.

Is development along the county's fastest-growing corridor starting to slow?

After all, Best Buy apparently decided to head for south Frederica Street, taking over the old Toys "R" Us location.

Developer Tommy Thompson, whose company built more than 1,000 homes along Kentucky 54 during the past three decades, has announced plans for 146 homes along J.R. Miller Boulevard and 400 along Carter Road south of Southtown Boulevard.

And the last two strip centers announced were along Frederica Street and West Parrish Avenue.

But Brad Anderson, managing partner in the company developing Woodlands Plaza and the 76-acre Highland Pointe project at Kentucky 54 and the U.S. 60 bypass, says Kentucky 54 is still booming.

**Envision
Contractors
concrete
finisher
Mike
Shroeder of
Kihea,
Hawaii,
watches
the bubble
on his level
as
carpenter
Jason
Burton
looks over
his
shoulder
Thursday
morning at
Woodlands
Plaza on
Ralph
Avenue and
Kentucky
54. They
were
aligning the
footer wall.**

-- Construction should begin this week on the Montana Mike's Steakhouse to be built just west of the BB&T branch, he said.

-- Bowling Green attorney Charlie Evans said last week that construction of the Chuck's Liquors store on the southeast corner of Fairview Drive and Kentucky 54 will begin as soon as a building permit is issued.

"They're hoping to open Nov. 1," he said. "They want to be there in time for the holidays."

The store, originally announced as 14,000 square feet, has been scaled back to just under 12,000, he said.

But that's still a huge liquor store.

Voters in the South Seven Hills Precinct made the store possible when they approved liquor sales by a vote of 178-43 in a special election Sept. 30, 2003.

-- Anderson said work has already begun on a 46,000-square-foot strip center along Ralph Avenue, east of Kohl's.

"We bought houses there, and we're tearing them down to make way for a center of small shops," he said.

-- Work on a 65,000- to 70,000-square-foot strip center west of Kohl's will begin as soon as tenants are signed, Anderson said.

"We're probably 30 days from any announcements," he said. "But there's been a lot of interest out here. We have national retailers coming in every week to look at the area. Some of them are new to the area."

-- Jamie Blandford, Old National Bank's Southern regional retail banking manager, said Old National will begin construction of its new branch on Mount Moriah Avenue in front of Wal-Mart by early summer.

The branch, which she describes as "a state-of-the art full-service financial center with a 24/7 community room and a Starbucks-like cyber cafe," should open late this year, Blandford said.

Construction will begin with an "old-fashioned 'roof-raising,' complete with a bluegrass concert and community celebration," she said.

-- Work is progressing on the Beef 'O' Brady's Family Sports Pub at 3189 Fairview Drive, across from Woodlands Plaza.

The restaurant is planning a spring opening.

The Kentucky 54 boom, Anderson said, is a long way from slowing down.