

Exeter Commons scheduled to open in 2009

By Heather Tassmer
 News Editor

Exeter Township residents will have a new shopping center to go to in the summer of 2009 if all construction goes according to plan.

"I'm excited about it," said Vice-chairwoman of the Exeter Township Supervisors Board Michelle Kircher. "I think it will be a big boom to business in our community that we need. I think we've been lacking new businesses and this will spur interest for more stores to move into the area."

The Exeter Commons shopping center, a project that is planned to exceed more than \$100 million, will be located at the intersection of Business 422 and 47th Street, according to an April press release from development partners Ironwood Property Group, Conshohocken, and The Goldenberg Group, Blue Bell.

Crews were working on demolishing the former Dutch Colony Inn last week for the shopping center that will be anchored by Target, Lowe's and Giant, according to the release. Other tenants include Circuit City, PETCO and Wachovia Bank.

Exeter Commons will have various restaurants such as Red Robin, Chik-Fil-A and Five Guys Burgers and Fries.

Jeremy Fogel, president of Ironwood Property Group said in a press release, "Exeter Commons has become a reality largely because of the understanding and support of local, county and state officials. Without such significant and comprehensive support, the project could not have come to fruition."

Senior Partner and Director of Sales and Leasing of the Goldenberg Group Peter Farnum added, "We have put together an exciting and dynamic mix of national tenants. When complete, this center will be a

first-class asset in the Township, and a catalyst for additional redevelopment along Exeter's commercial corridor."

Once completed, the shopping center will be approximately 500,000 square feet, according to the press release.

See Shopping on page 3.

Glenn Marvin, principal of Metro Commercial Real Estate said other stores and restaurants are in negotiations to become tenants and will be announced in the near future.

Development partners expect the project to create at least 1,058 permanent jobs and produce nearly \$7 million a year in state and tax revenue, according to the press release.

The Exeter Township supervisors approved night construction for the Exeter Commons Shopping Center during their April 28 meeting.

Kircher said April 29 that the construction would only be done during evenings Monday through Friday to cut down on the amount of time to complete the center and delays people will experience.

Residents can see the road improvement plans related to the project on Exeter Township's Web site, www.co.berks.pa.us/exeter.

