

Out with the old, onward with the new

Streets at SouthGlenn begins demolition with groundbreaking event

BY SHIRLEY SMITH

It wasn't exactly a groundbreaking. More like a "break-through" as the Streets at SouthGlenn officials described it when the Dillard's building received the first blows to demolish it on June 15 at the Southglenn Mall. The redevelopment of the '70s mall into The Streets at SouthGlenn had officially begun.

More than 200 people crowded the mall area to see the first structure succumb to make way for the new development.

Lunch was provided and hard hats handed out.

"It's a great day," said Centennial Mayor Randy Pye. "It's the culmination of a lot of work."

He said the ancient idea behind a "groundbreaking" was to ask "the gods for goodwill at the start of a new project."

He called The Streets at SouthGlenn "a new start for the south metro region."

Don Provost, of Alberta Development Partners, thanked the mayor, Centennial city staff and more as he described the new development, which will change the face of the city. "It brings urban to the suburbs," Provost said.

Bryan McFarland of Alberta, told *The Villager* the Dillard's location would have a "natural grocery." The demolition of the mall will take place over the next few months. The Streets, at Arapahoe Road and S.

University Boulevard, is expected to be completed and open for business in 2008. Foley's, soon to be Macy's, and Sears will remain open throughout the construction.

"The Streets at SouthGlenn will energize the surrounding neighborhoods with much-anticipated redevelopment of the Southglenn Mall. The Streets at SouthGlenn will be an upscale, urban shopping district that's as varied and vital as a city, and as convenient and comfortable as the suburbs," according to the developer Alberta Development Partners. "Urban design principles will be incorporated into the office, retail and residential spaces. The Streets at SouthGlenn will feature classic design, traditional materials, and modern details that build on neighborhood character while providing public spaces that support community events and activities."

Bart Sayyah, economic development director for the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, said, "I'm absolutely 100 percent thrilled. SouthGlenn will become the center of influence in all of south metro."

There will be ripple effects, he believes. The Streets will create an image that other centers will have to keep up with. "It will have a high level of quality. It sets high standards," Sayyah said.

The development will have a park, a movie theater, a bookstore, a library, shops, restaurants, bistros, and offices and residents.

Pam Hull, with Realty Pro, a neighbor of the project said, "It's great, a really good program."

One neighbor of the mall



A HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR rips into the former Dillard's store at the breakthrough for the Streets at SouthGlenn.

Photos by Paul Hartmann, www.hartmannphoto.com



DON PROVOST, principal of Alberta Development Partners, left, is with Centennial Mayor Randy Pye at the breakthrough for the Streets at SouthGlenn.

noted it was kind of a shock when "you've been around the neighborhood longer than the shopping center."

Dave Lorenz, executive director of the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, is pleased with the plans Nancy O'Connor with the South Metro

Denver Chamber of Commerce said, "I think it's great, but it creates nostalgia, 30 years later (after it was built), they are tearing it down."

John Brackney, president of the South Metro Denver

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Chamber of Commerce, attended the event with his wife Meredith, and two daughters Jordan and Taylor. Brackney, is one of the founding fathers of the city of Centennial. The chamber is just across the street from the Streets at SouthGlenn.

Centennial City Council members were spotted in the crowd including Ward I Councilman Vorry Moon, Ward IV Councilmen Ron Weidmann and Todd Miller, Ward II

Councilwoman Sue Bosier, Ward III Councilwoman Rebecca McClellan, to name a few.

While the mood was upbeat, when the first blow struck the Dillard's Building some people couldn't help but gasp, while a few cheered.

Carol Habig said. "It is kind of sad. I'll be glad when it has its rebirth."

The demolition continues at the mall as more buildings disappeared by the weekend.



RE/MAX CLASSIC agent Bob Kopf with company owners Lois and Jack Bradbury.



FORMER CENTENNIAL City Councilwoman and candidate for the statehouse District 37 Betty Ann Habig signs in for the event at the Streets at SouthGlenn breakthrough.



DAVID GOLDBERG, principal with Alberta Development Co. speaks with Ron Urgitus with CB Richard Ellis.



NANCY O'CONNOR with South Suburban Executive Director Dave Lorenz.



BRYAN MCFARLAND, principal development executive with Alberta Development.



GREG COTTRELL, president of Cottrell Printing, beams at the Southglenn breakthrough event. Right is Centennial Ward 1 Councilman Vorry Moon.



JOHN BRACKNEY, president of the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce and Centennial Ward IV Councilman Todd Miller chat with Barry Foley at the Streets at SouthGlenn event.