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By Tammy Marashlian
Signal Staff Writer
tmarashlian@the-signal.com
661-259-1234 x525

Bridgeport seeks to be shopping destination

- Construction finished on 170,000-sq.-ft. marketplace

With its mile-long trail, flowing water and major tenants, Bridgeport Marketplace is gearing up to become the next shopping destination for the Santa Clarita Valley.

The 170,000-square-foot center, located on the corner of Newhall Ranch Road and McBean Parkway in Valencia, has finished construction on the five buildings that make up the retail center and will soon be home to major retailers mixed with restaurants and shops.

On the second floor of three two-story buildings will be medical offices.

Already a handful of businesses, including Red Mango, a frozen yogurt store, and a home accessories store have opened their doors.

The marketplace's anchor tenants will include speciality food retailer Bristol Farms, expected to open in October, Walgreens, Kabuki Japanese Restaurant, opening this summer and Daphne's Restaurant. A 10,000-square-foot Yoga Works, a yoga studio, is also planned to open on one of the center's second floor.

During Bridgeport Marketplace's open house on Thursday, Dale Donohoe, president of Intertex Companies, said they are close to an agreement with California Pizza Kitchen to open a restaurant, as well.

Aside from the anchor stores, Donohoe said Bridgeport Marketplace will feature a salon, dry cleaners and jewelry store, among others.

Donohoe explained that the center was designed to be a spot for the community to spend time shopping, dining and walking around, while creating something different and separate from other retail centers in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Circling the marketplace, which sits across the street from the Bridgeport community, is a milelong trail, Donohoe said.

For example, the center, which began grading in February 2007, is dotted with light fixtures and fountains. Special detail was also paid to the exterior of the buildings, which feature shades above their windows. At night, neon lights will illuminate the top of the archways. The marketplace also includes a man-made lake with benches and waterside artwork of birds and sailboats.

Donohoe said developers and builders also reached out to the surrounding Valencia neighborhoods bordering the marketplace to get help with the approval

process.

"I think it will improve property values," he said.

Patrick Leclair, associate planner for the city of Santa Clarita, believes Bridgeport Marketplace will offer a lot to the local community while its location and amenities will make it an "active center."

"The center itself brings a lot of new tenants that we don't have," Leclair said during the open house.

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