

Strip malls prosper

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 tallers that have analyzed the market and have determined that there's a specialty niche that has not been served."

"THERE IS LITTLE retail construction going on in the Birmingham, Bloomfield, Rochester and Southfield areas.

"If there is any change in retail, it's just tenants changing," said Patti McCullough, Birmingham's assistant city planner. "As far as building new floor area for new retail, that's not happening at a surprising rate. We don't have many vacant parcels left."

A new building at 205 East Maple will house Furs by Robert and the Offices of Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

Planners in nearby suburbs echoed McCullough's assessment of the commercial land situation.

"There isn't a whole lot of room for it," Nick Banda, a planner for the city of Southfield, said about further commercial development.

The Promenade Plaza, whose tenants include a restaurant and dry cleaners, opened recently on Northwestern Highway near 12 Mile, and there are a few "pockets" of commercial space still available, Banda said.

Downtown Farmington has a new 10,000-square-foot building and a year-old strip mall that is yet to be filled. The new building, on Farmington Road a block south of Grand River, will house a video store and one or two more shops.

The 100,000-square-foot strip mall, called Village Commons, is on Grand River east of Farmington Road. It is currently home to a bakery, sun tanning salon and a few other stores, but there are still vacancies.

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business people

Thomas E. Leaby earned the Accreditation Council for Accountancy's "Accredited Accountant" credential -- awarded to accountants who passed the national body's examination. Leaby owns and manages PROOF Services in Lathrup Village, which specializes in accounting, financial and computer services for small businesses.



Kohler Leaby

Wendy Rose of Bloomfield Hills and Larry Kohler, also of Bloomfield Hills, were promoted at A&W Restaurants Inc. in Livonia. Rose was named marketing communications manager. Kohler was promoted to vice president of franchise sales.



Burke Rose

Brenda Berke of Rochester was named district manager of Hadley Arden.

James D. Donlon III of Farmington Hills was named director of international planning and new venture development for Chrysler Motors Corp. International Operations.

Pamela J. Wicks was named vice president finance at the Southfield-based Casey Communications Management Inc.

David Checklich was promoted to manager, product quality at Hydralink Corp. of Farmington Hills.

Lawrence Raab joined Stone, August, Baker Public Relations of Troy as an account representative.

Richard W. Seery was named manager of the new ACO Hardware in Southfield.

Kenneth Nash and Don Gervase Jr. of Birmingham were promoted at Rom Roy Advertising in Bloomfield Hills. Nash was named copywriter and Gervase was promoted to junior copywriter.

Diane MacLean of Bloomfield Hills joined Volkswagen United States of Troy as public relations specialist.

Robert Evans, Mark Johnson and Ann Ventimiglio-Essex were promoted at Smith Security Corp. of Southfield. Evans was named investigation manager for the Detroit office. Johnson was named corporate controller and Ventimiglio-Essex joined Smith Security in March as employment manager.

Gayle Watts was appointed account executive for Gorman's Business Interiors in Southfield.

Ron Geskey of Bloomfield Hills was named group management supervisor for Lintas-Campbell-Ewald's Chevrolet Area Marketing Group.

Beth Mike and Don Terowski were promoted to traffic coordinators on Goldfarm Hoff & Co. of Southfield's AT&T Consumer Products and Whirlpool accounts.

Lisa Marie Palika was promoted to copywriter at Rom Roy Communications in Bloomfield Hills.

Alice Ratten, an associate broker at RE/MAX of Birmingham Inc., was inducted into the RE/MAX International Hall of Fame. The award was presented in March at the 16th annual convention of the organization in Las Vegas, Nev.

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