

Publix eyes corner of St. Andrews/New Salem Would be second store in 'Boro

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Before the first Murfreesboro Publix is even constructed, the growing supermarket chain is planning to build a second store at St. Andrews Drive and New Salem Highway.

Other new stores could be announced in the near future as Publix looks to expand its presence in the Murfreesboro market.

The \$10 million Publix-anchored shopping center, Market at Salem Cove, is slated for roughly 13 acres on the northeast corner of St. Andrews Drive and New Salem Highway — an area of Murfreesboro booming with residential growth, said Vanessa Santo, a partner in Florida-based Barclay Group, developers on both Publix projects. It is only 4 miles away from the first Murfreesboro Publix and will open in early 2009.

The approximately 80,000-square-foot center will consist of a 45,000-square-foot Publix and other retail space.

As of Friday afternoon, Murfreesboro Planning Director Joseph Aydelott said no plans for the Publix shopping center had been submitted.

"If one is coming, no one has reviewed any plans for it," he said.

Because of the growth occurring in Murfreesboro, Aydelott said it is likely that another Publix would want to locate here.

Construction on the first Publix supermarket on the southeast corner of Old Fort Parkway and Rucker Lane will begin in October, Santo said.

The neighborhood center, Victory Village, will consist of a 45,000-square-foot Publix, 25,000 square feet of retail space and three outparcels. It is slated to open October 2007.

"We are actively talking to tenants now and getting interest in this market," said Kandi Carpenter, marketing and leasing specialist for Barclay.

Murfreesboro's explosive growth and the recent ranking at No. 20 in the nation by the U.S. Census Bureau for growth in housing units is attracting retail into the area.

"That really went over big," Santo said of the ranking.

"Publix is looking for possible other locations in the Murfreesboro market but nothing has been decided upon," she said.

The supermarket chain made its first foray into Rutherford County last year with the opening of a grocery on Sam Ridley Parkway in Smyrna.