

Retailers continue to flock to Rt. 611

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More retail development is on the way in Stroud Township, where a Dick's Sporting Goods is the latest addition.

The store, which sells a variety of sports supplies, including apparel, exercise equipment, footwear and outdoor supplies like tents, fishing rods, sleeping bags, guns and ammunition, is currently under construction at Bartonsville Square, across from the Sonic Drive Thru on Route 611.

Developer Jim DePetris hopes the store will be open by Oct. 15, "sometime before Black Friday," he said.

"They really are a first-class store and very family oriented," DePetris said. "What's great is that these people who live in the area are going to Scranton and Bethlehem, but now they have a (Dick's Sporting Goods) right in the neighborhood."

The store will be housed in a 49,000-square-foot building in the same development as a new comprehensive Pocono Medical health center, which DePetris' team at Legend Properties also developed.

That 40,000-square-foot, three-story facility is scheduled to open in the fall and will include a mix of primary care physicians and specialists.

A four-story Hampton Inn and Suites with a total of 110 rooms is also planned.

The second phase of development at Bartonsville Square will include the addition of 23,600-square-feet of retail space that can be shared by several store fronts, and a 3,400-square-foot restaurant.

That portion of the project has yet to be finalized, DePetris said on Thursday, although he is in the process of signing on a "couple more retailers."

"The retailers I have coming there are high-quality tenants that are not in the area now," he said declining to name any names.

He hopes the second phase of development will be underway by the spring.

"The eastern Poconos has come a long way. Demographics are now very strong and the retailers all do business. They have a tendency to follow each other. When they hear good success stories they all want to come, and that's what's happening now," DePetris said.

DePetris owns Legend Properties with his brothers Michael, Steven and David.

The group recently entered into a "venture agreement," with Suburban Realty to develop four acres across from the proposed St. Luke's Pocono campus off Blue Bird Drive on Route 611 in Bartonsville.

"We are going to plan on stores that will compliment the hospital and medical buildings so that patients and employees have a place to go, but we have a ways to go," DePetris said.

In addition to Bartonsville Square, Legend Properties also developed Bartonsville Plaza, located across the street, which includes the Sonic Drive-Thru and Dunkin Donuts.

"We've been doing business in this area for 12 years and we feel we are very much a part of the community," DePetris said.

Ground breaking for Dick's Wed.

Although construction is already underway on Dick's Sporting Goods a "ground breaking ceremony" has been planned from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in front of the store. To attend call Nicole today at 610-941-4034 or email ndudek@lpre.com