

## **BLAINE DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

March, 2005

### **Housing Starts Skyrocket in 2004**

Blaine continues to experience an incredible burst of home building. In 2004 there were 1,089 housing permits issued. This is up from 816 and 817 permits issued in 2003 and 2002. Blaine continues to place in the top three metro communities for housing growth. Last year Woodbury was first with 1,183 permits issued.

### **Stone Mountain Pet Lodge**

Site work has begun on a new boarding kennel for cats and dogs. Phase one includes capacity for 200 dogs and 75 cats with room for future expansions. Stone Mountain will include grooming and bathing services, a retail store and a 1,500 square foot room Petvention Center for training, seminars, clinics and other functions. Dave Larson of Larson Systems, Inc. in Blaine will be the owner. Stone Mountain will be located on Radisson Road just south of 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue and they expect to be open in May, 2005. For more information go to their web site at [www.stonemountainpetlodge.com](http://www.stonemountainpetlodge.com)

### **Exclusive Agreement for Development of Old City Hall Site**

The Blaine Economic Development Authority approved an exclusive 90-day agreement with Otsego Hospitality LLC to develop the former city hall site located at the NW intersection of Highway 65 and Highway 10. Otsego is proposing to construct a four-story, 128-room Holiday Inn with an indoor and outdoor water park, underground parking and hotel fitness center. The plan also includes a 25,000 square foot Blackwoods Grill and Bar and banquet center. Once the site plan and financing concerns are evaluated, the EDA will review Otsego's final site plan for the development and then consider selling the land to Otsego for this project.

### **Blaine Economic Development Web Page has a New Address:**

**[www.blainebiz.com](http://www.blainebiz.com)**

Please use this site for news and information on Blaine. The web site will be constantly changing in an effort to keep the Blaine business community informed. This page has been developed by the Blaine Business Retention and Expansion program. A committee of Blaine businesses has been working to enhance this page so that it can be used by businesses, residents and the real estate community for information. Please check it out and let us know how we are doing or what kind of information you would like to see on this site.

### **Spring Job Fair 2005**

**Wednesday, April 13**

**Noon – 3:30 PM**

**Anoka Technical College**

**1355 West Highway 10 in Anoka**

The Minnesota WorkForce Center Anoka County office and the Anoka Technical College are known for their well organized and well attended job fairs. This is a great opportunity to increase your company's visibility and boost your recruiting. For more information contact Kathy Vockrodt at 763-576-4783 or [kvockrodt@ank.tec.mn.us](mailto:kvockrodt@ank.tec.mn.us) Cost is \$89 for a table and two chairs and two box lunches.

## **Northtown Mall Update**

Changes are happening at Northtown Mall. Construction is complete on a newly renovated food court. The mall expanded the seating area and added one new food tenant. This is part of a \$15 million renovation of the mall. Future changes will include remodeling the mall entrances, concourse improvements including floor treatments, furniture and painting as well as exterior improvements. Construction has started on a new multi-tenant commercial building on the mall's northeast parking lot. This building will include a Starbuck's, Potbelly Sandwich Works, Electronic Boutique and other tenants and is expected to be completed this Spring/Summer. The mall has already spent over \$3.6 million on new mechanical systems, roof replacement and other capital improvements. Watch for more mall improvements to be announced this year.

## **Aveda Opens New Distribution Center**

CSM Corporation completed a 126,000 square foot state of the art distribution facility for Aveda Corporation, a subsidiary of The Estee Lauder Companies. The building features ceiling clear heights of 36 feet, a 12,000 square feet of flammable storage area, 19 loading docks and 11,000 square feet of office space. The project was designed to accommodate Aveda's philosophy of environmental sustainability. This includes an environmentally friendly roof, carpet and floor tile made from recycled materials, wood products certified not to have come from old growth forests, energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems and many more considerations. Aveda will lease the facility from CSM for 15 years with options to extend. Aveda is the first tenant in CSM's Lexington Preserve Business Park where they are planning to build more than 850,000 square feet of office/warehouse and showroom space over the next 5 to 7 years.

## **Other Project Announcements...**

### **Comfort Inn and Suites**

Venerts Inc. of South Dakota purchased a two acre lot from the Blaine EDA on Highway 65 just south of the Super Target. They plan to build a 98-room Comfort Inn and Suites hotel and expect to be under construction this summer or fall.

### **Comforts of Home**

Construction has started on a 20,000 square foot assisted living home for seniors. This is located just north of Gale's Auto Body on Highway 65 and 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Blaine Aquatic Center**

Plans are underway for a 20,000 square foot swim school to be part of the new Northgate Mall project located at the SE corner of Highway 65 and 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Gold's Gym**

Construction has started on a 35,000 square foot athletic club in the new Northgate Mall project on Highway 65 and 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Town Square Shops**

Subway is one tenant that will open in the new shops located on Radisson Road in front of the Blaine City Hall. Property owners for this 8,700 square foot building are working with other businesses for leasing space in this new retail center.

**For more news on Blaine please go to the Blaine Business Page at [www.BlaineBiz.com](http://www.BlaineBiz.com) or the city web page located at [www.ci.blaine.mn.us](http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us) for updates on local news.**