

Arboretum attracting tenants as fall opening getting closer

By TONY A. SOLANO

While The Arboretum of South Barrington is opening this fall and developers say retail space at the new 600,000-square-foot development on the corner of Routes 59 and 72 is filling up quickly.

Michael Jaffe, president of Northbrook-based developer The Jaffe Companies, said phase one of the project will consist of 500,000-square-feet and is expected to be completed by September or October. He said 70 percent of the phase one retail space has already been leased.

“We had originally planned for phase one to consist of 350,000-square-feet but the demand was so high we expanded it,” he said.

When completed the outdoor shopping center will feature 125 stores and restaurants.

Two anchors of the development are Village Roadshow Gold Class Cinemas and L.L. Bean—an outdoor gear and apparel outfitter.

The Maine-based L.L. Bean will open its first location in the Midwest at the Arboretum. Senior Vice President of Retail Ken Kacere said through catalog and Web site sales Chicago is already one of the chain’s largest markets.

Gold Class Cinemas is an Australia-based luxury movie theater chain, offering reclining seats, valet parking, a full-service bar and restaurant-style meals served by a waiter or waitress. The Arboretum will be home to an eight-screen theater.

“Our goal was to become relevant in the Chicago retail landscape in a very short time and I believe we have done that,” Jaffe said.

Other stores will include Chico’s, Claire’s, White House/Black Market, Limited Too, Coldwater Creek, DSW Shoes, Bath & Body Works, Jos. A. Bank, Victoria’s Secret, Circuit City, Ann Taylor Loft, Toms-Price Furniture, CVS Pharmacy, Sur La Table and more.



Construction continues on what will be the first L.L. Bean store in the Midwest at The Arboretum of South Barrington, a new shopping center scheduled to open this fall. (Michelle Lohmann/Staff Photographer)

“We’re very much targeting the higher end apparel and clothing retailers,” Jaffe said. “We hear people say all the time: ‘Once you’re open I’m going to stop going to Woodfield.’”

In addition to unique and high-quality retailers, Jaffe said he wanted to attract a variety of restaurants. So far selections include Ruth’s Chris Steak House, Pinstripes, Potbelly, Blue Coral Sushi, Panera and Noodles & Company.

“There’s not a lot of spots outside of the city (of Chicago) that have a high concentration of night life options,” he said.

Jaffe said extensive detail was also given to the architecture of the buildings and landscaping.

“It’s really exciting to build a new main street in South Barrington and create something gorgeous, fun and convenient,” he said.

For the latest updates on the Arboretum development or additional retailers and restaurants visit www.thearboretumsb.com.