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Business

CONSTRUCTION ZONE; Jewelry store goes south, to prime retail ground

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Count the Weisman family among the believers in the burgeoning Grove City retail market.

Meyer Weisman and his sons, Jeff and Scott, have moved their jewelry store to the fast-growing Stringtown Road retail corridor. Meyers Jewelers, which has been in business for 42 years, now is operating out of a freestanding building at 1494 Stringtown Rd.

"We wanted to own our own property and make it our dream store," co-owner Scott Weisman said. "It's everything we think a jewelry store should be."

The family business had been at two locations: the original store at Great Southern Shopping Center and a shopping center on W. Broad Street. The Weismans closed both stores recently.

Scott Weisman said the new site should encourage more walk-up business. He said he's seen an improvement in the store's first week.

"You can only survive for so long on existing clientele," he said. "It was very hard for us to close businesses that are successful, but the areas are moving down the bell curve, and it just doesn't seem like they're coming back up."

"There is no fine retail (near the old locations). It seems like everything there are dollar stores."

The 8,500-square foot Grove City store offers improved lighting, plenty of space for goldsmiths and repair workers, and a TV lounge for children. There's a separate TV room for people who might rather watch a football game on a fall afternoon than gaze at diamonds.

Weisman said Meyers has started selling giftware and has increased its product line to include Tissot watches, Triton men's jewelry and Fana women's jewelry.

Also, Weisman said that Meyers is the only local jeweler to sell Philip Stein Teslar watches, which Oprah Winfrey has popularized.

\ Grandview Station idling

The Cincinnati-area company that talked about building in Grandview Heights has altered its plan, and the effort has stalled.

Two years ago, Bear Creek Capital unveiled Grandview Station, more than 300,000 square feet of office and restaurant space at Dublin Road and Grandview Avenue. Bear Creek appeared before the city's planning commission several times last year, and on at least one occasion, Grandview Heights asked Bear Creek to include residential as part of the plan.

Bear Creek balked, citing the high cost of upgrading the site, much of which is a former landfill. Recently, Bear Creek has let options on part of the 36-acre property expire, said Grandview Heights Development Director Patrik Bowman.

Bear Creek is no longer in line to purchase the former Knights Inn and Jasmine restaurant properties near the southwest corner of the site. David Kozar, a real-estate agent with Indus Cos. representing the owner of the closed hotel, said that owners are weighing their options.

"We thought the project would have happened a lot quicker," he said. "That's why the owners closed it down. But a year has turned into two years."

Officials from Bear Creek did not return calls seeking comment.

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* The Community Housing Network has broken ground on Southpoint Apartments, an 80-unit affordable-housing project at 4079 Southpoint Blvd. on the South Side. The group also will manage the property, designed for homeless families or those battling substance abuse or mental-health issues. KeyBank provided the construction loan and said it will sponsor a \$1 million grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

* A new warehouse property manager has entered central Ohio. High Street Equity Advisors, based in Boston, has acquired a 340,000-square-foot warehouse at 3100 Creekside Parkway in Lockbourne. The building is part of Pizzuti Cos.'s Creekside development and is leased by Hyperlogistics Group, a third-party shipping company.

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