

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

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Hammond Square grand opening on Thursday

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

The new-and-much-improved Hammond Square will officially open Thursday evening, *10/12 Weekly* reports. Stirling Properties spent roughly \$100 million to buy the original 430,000-square-foot Hammond Square Mall—a 1970s-era design disaster—demolish it, and create a new open-air power/lifestyle center twice the original size. The retail center is now one of the corridor's biggest retail success stories. Even with the economy such that it was, Stirling Properties has packed in the big-name retailers and restaurants, and opened the mall at 90% capacity. Tangipahoa residents have their first 10-screen AMC movie theater, seven new restaurants, Dillard's, J.C. Penney, Target, T.J. Maxx, Best Buy and Books-A-Million. The J.C. Penney ranked No. 2 among 14 stores that opened on the same day; sales at Target are running 80% higher than projected. The Santa Fe Cattle Company restaurant that opened four months ago ranks No. 1 in the entire chain. Says Stirling Properties Chairman James Maurin: "We know we have a winner in Hammond." Eleven new stores will open their doors that day, including Books-A-Million, Maurices, Paris Parker, Foot Locker, rue21, Great American Cookie Company, Merle Norman, Purse Bag Pattie's, Coach House Gifts, Hibbett Sports and Phil's Grill. Others set to open in the coming weeks include Shoe Department Encore, GNC, Zales, Nagoya Sushi & Japanese Steakhouse, Smoothie King, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt and East of Italy. The Hammond Square Main Street grand opening is set for 5:30 p.m. in front of rue21. Grand-opening activities will continue throughout the weekend, with live radio remotes, entertainment, drawings for gift cards and shopping specials and promotions from Hammond Square retailers. For a complete list of events, click [here](#). To read the rest of *10/12 Weekly*, click [here](#). — Penny Font

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POLL



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