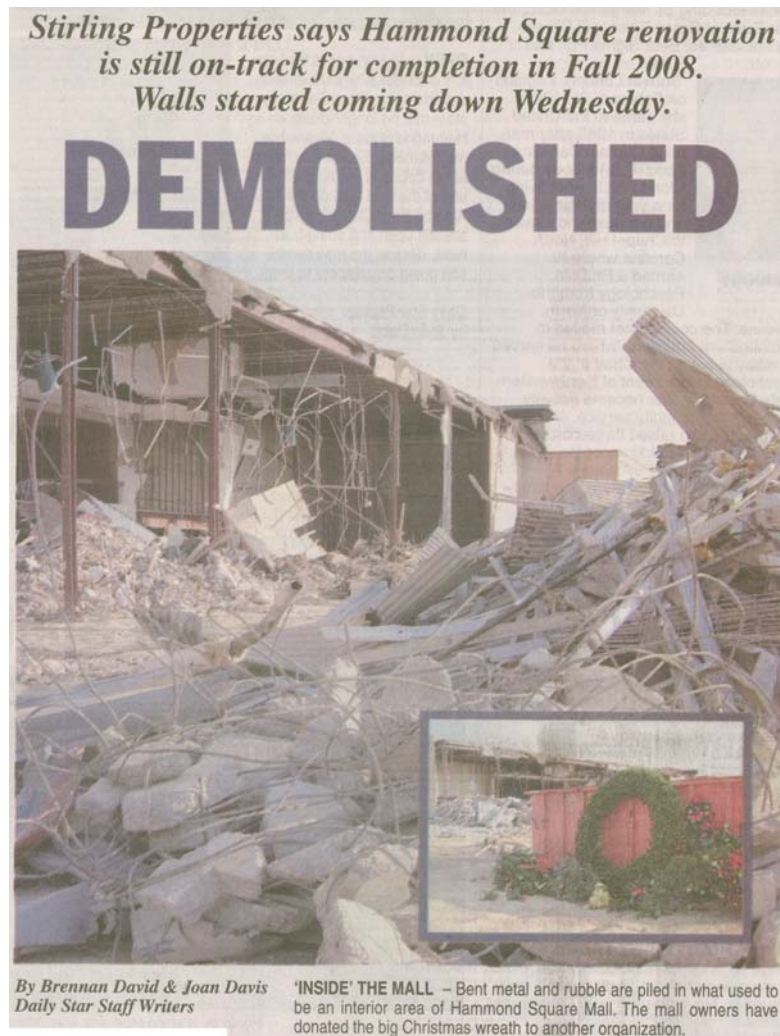


## Walls coming down at Hammond Square

By Brennan David & Joan Davis  
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The large screen wall that advertises Hammond Square facing U.S. 51 will soon be placed higher, Cyr said. He said the sign will be more visible from the highway, and it will hide more of the construction area.

Phase one of the renovated mall is on schedule for completion in fall 2008, and spring 2009 for complete project completion. Cyr said J.C. Penney is still committed to opening its new store on Oct. 1, 2008.

Mall Manager Susan Cox said demolition began on Halloween morning, and she can hardly stay away, wearing a hard hat with her cell phone in her ear so she can keep in touch with her staff and the remaining tenants.

She doesn't mind the dust or the noise of the heavy equipment.

Demolition of the Hammond Square Mall began last week and is expected to be 90 percent complete by Christmas.

Stirling Properties Project Manager Dick Cyr said Rite-Aid, Dillard's and Sears experienced no water or power outages and those three stores remain open for business.

The demolition process is estimated to take 60 to 70 days depending on weather conditions as work proceeds.

The work began in the rear part of the mall and will progress toward the front so as to not disturb the operations of the remaining stores. Two claws that pinch beams and tear them from the structure are contributing to most of the demolition.



**“When you think of the outcome, it will all be worth it.”**

– Hammond Square Mall manager Susan Cox

"When you think about the outcome, it will all be worth it," Cox said.

Cox still has her focus on tenants, like Sears, which is planning a big event for "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving and the biggest shopping day of the year.

"They've been great," she said.



**OPEN** — A sign points the way to the former site of the catalog department in the J.C. Penney store that no longer exists at Hammond Square. Meanwhile, mall Manager Susan Cox looks at the debris in the northern end of the mall outside the Rite Aid and Sears stores, which are still open and doing business, despite the mall demolition going on adjacent to them.

Daily Star Photos  
by Joan Davis

