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Jobs, shopping blossom through north Lafayette development

Center could mark new start in north Lafayette

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A major shopping center is set to break ground Thursday in north Lafayette, and residents are hopeful it will bring jobs, money and the type of economic boost that south Lafayette has enjoyed for years.

The developer, Stirling Properties, has been moving dirt since Nov. 1 at the 450,000-square-foot site at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Louisiana Avenue, said Bryant Chataignier, project control manager at the site for M. Matt Durand LLC.

The southwest quadrant of the intersection will be home to a huge complex that will include Target and JC Penney.

Smaller retail shops, a movie theater and hotels also have been mentioned as possibilities.

If the southwest side is well received, Stirling Properties also owns the southeast quadrant and has said it would develop there.

The opening of the center is slated for fall 2008.

It's a sign of many changes going on in the northern part of the city, according to the developer.

"The population has been growing, and the interchange there was a prime reason" north Lafayette was chosen, said Stirling spokeswoman Jennifer Ansardi Giovingo.
