

Mall coming down
Demolition crews begin razing Penney's

By Lil Miranda
Daily Star Staff Writer



Passersby from a distance on C.M. Fagan could see the start of Hammond Square's demolition Tuesday.

Most of the Hammond mall stores will be torn down to open the area for a major retail center. Sears, Dillards and Rite Aide will remain in operation while the work is ongoing.

Rather than hauling off the crushed concrete, Stirling Properties CEO James Maurin of Hammond said the demolition contractor will

recycle it for use as the base material in the parking lots.

Over the next several months, people will see a huge mountain of crushed concrete sitting on the back side of the mall near the Palace Theatre, he said.

One of Stirling Properties' project managers came up with the recycling idea, Maurin said, adding that this is only the second time he has done it.

"We rarely ever tear down," he said. "But when we bought the old K-mart at Millerville, we tore it down and built Target and we recycled the concrete. We got a lot of good accolades for 'green building.'"

The demolition contractor has a huge machine that will crush the concrete, Maurin said.

"When we take the concrete slabs out, it will create a big hole," he said. "We will fill it all back with dirt again. It will be a big dirt area, all roped and fenced off."

Recycling is an important factor in the concept of "green building."