



A new Mercedes Benz showroom and maintenance building are among several new "looks" in Pleasanton.

On the Economic Development Front

You may have noticed more commercial development around town over the past two years. This is the result of continued planning during the recent recession to be prepared for the economic recovery. While the economy may not have fully recovered to its earlier strength, signs are looking more positive and affirm Pleasanton's position as a great place for business. Here's a glimpse into what's coming to our community.

Several Pleasanton auto dealers are putting on a new face. The Mercedes Benz dealership completed a reconstruction of its showroom and maintenance shop with

a beautiful building that can be seen from both Owens Drive and I-580. Mini Cooper and BMW is just about ready to upgrade their facilities, while Lexus has just received approval from the City to replace its buildings with more a contemporary showroom and service bay.

These improvements will allow the dealerships to better serve customers' purchasing and service needs, while integrating new architecture into Pleasanton's high design standards. We can also expect a new CarMax at the Staples Ranch site located at I-580 and El Charro Road in 2015/16 with a selection of quality used cars.

Meanwhile, Specialty's Café is renovating a former restaurant building on Hopyard Road at Owens Drive, while also moving its headquarters to Pleasanton, and Eddie Papa's is preparing to expand its outdoor seating area. On a slightly larger scale, the JC Penney Plaza on Springdale Avenue is now under new ownership with plans to revamp and reenergize the center to better serve nearby residents, workers and patrons of Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Throughout the City's retail centers, new shops, services and restaurants are opening, including in downtown Pleasanton. The few vacant storefronts now have multiple tenants

bringing additional offerings to the heart of our community. The City's efforts to encourage private redevelopment are paying off with two new projects that will bring new architecture and activity to the downtown district.

The Pasttime Pool building will be renovated into a 2-story building to accommodate retail and restaurant on the ground floor and retail and services on the second floor. A few blocks north, the vacant lot has a new owner who is developing plans for a building to fill the space and add to the tenant mix.

Pleasanton's commercial office environment also continues to strengthen. Leading cloud computing company Workday has plans to build a new 430,000 square foot office building next to the West Pleasanton BART station on Stoneridge Mall Road, firmly establishing Pleasanton as its home. Blackberry has also leased a large space in Bernal Corporate Park. In Hacienda business park, a new medical care facility — a partnership between Tenet Healthcare, parent company of the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and John Muir Health — will soon open on Owens Drive across from the East Pleasanton BART station, and the California Center has been sold to new owners that will invest in and reposition the campus to attract new firms.

These businesses generate jobs, provide services, and their employees patronize other Pleasanton businesses, which contributes to a healthier economy for the city.