

CLERMONT

From 8

Russo said a 16-screen movie theater is being negotiated and could quite possibly become part of the mix.

No homes are currently planned, but about 70,000 square feet of office space will be available above the shops and stores throughout the plaza.

Lake County Gateway was very selective in its partnership and hand-picked the Goodman Company based on its success in both types of markets, Russo said. Along with projects throughout the United States, The Goodman Company recently developed a 2.5 million-square-foot mixed-use development in Tampa called Wiregrass Ranch.

Russo said the road has not been easy, as the project — considered a Development of Regional Impact — has been in the making for three years.

The project has undergone countless negotiations and public hearings, he said, adding that the lengthy process has led to a loftier vision for the plaza.

Work on interior roads,

“We are excited and when done, (we) want everyone to just come and experience what we will have to offer. It will be very nice.”

Joe Russo

Director of real estate for Lake County LLC

grading and utilities may begin in May. Groundbreaking on buildings is expected to begin as early as this fall.

Early projections estimate a grand opening in late 2008.

State and county officials said the developer will have to help with costs to widen State Road 50.

Russo said they will be responsible for the cost of widening about one mile of the road and foresee a bigger benefit beyond traffic.

“We are excited and when done, (we) want everyone to just come and experience what we will have to offer,” said Russo. “It will be very nice.”



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