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Groundbreaking Kicks Off Development of The Village at San Antonio Center

The 229,000-square-foot commercial and residential site is to be completed by July 2013.

By [Claudia Cruz](#) | [Email the author](#) | August 24, 2011

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The Mountain View [City Council](#), [city manager](#) and members of the community development team joined Wednesday at the official groundbreaking of The Village at San Antonio Center.

"When Ronit Bryant, Margaret Abe-Koga and myself got elected a couple of years ago, one of the main things we wanted to change the [San Antonio Shopping Center](#)," said [Mayor Jac Siegel](#). "And here we are today, what is it that we are pretty excited about it."

After his remarks, the ceremony in the parking lot of the former Sears on Fayette Drive continued with the demolition of the now-closed structure.

The City Council's [vote to approve a \\$180 million](#) mixed-use development on the corner of El Camino Real and [face of Mountain View](#) for the next couple of decades. It will also generate short- and long-term job opportunities and increase sales tax revenues.

According to Michael Grehl, vice president of Merlone Geier Partner, the fully financed project should be completed by July 2013.

"We will finish this project," he said confidently.

The 229,000-square-foot project on 16.3 acres will have 330 residential units, a [Safeway](#)—the one on Cali pharmacy, three or four restaurants, one or more anchor retailers and numerous smaller storefront spaces.

Though not all of the 40-50 storefronts have tenants yet, retail brokerage firms like [Terranomics](#) are at wo

"We emphasize that people from Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto will shop here and that it's not far [Google](#)," said Matt Taylor, a retail broker. "It's also a mid-point between Highway 101, Internate 280 and ri

Also, nearly 700 jobs will be created for the construction phase of the project, and upon completion, it's est

"This will be great for kids to get experience in retail and service jobs, and internships, and will provide opp summer," Barry Groves, superintendent of the [Mountain View-Los Altos High School Union District](#), sa receive property taxes, and the tax funding will help increase our school budgets."

While some longtime residents of the city reminisced and felt nostalgia for the previous businesses on that revitalize the area.

"A lot of us who have grown up not just here in Mountain View, but Los Altos, Sunnyvale have some very fc Center," said Oscar Garcia, president and CEO of the [Chamber of Commerce of Mountain View](#), who sh shopped for baby clothes at [Sears](#). "We are going to be saying goodbye to the past, but it's also really, rea

Garcia expressed how, despite the many planning meetings that resulted in an array of changes to the proj collaborated toward the approval of a plan that will help the local economy and promote business and grow

"That's what I see that The Village will bring to the city of Mountain View," he said.

Related Topics: [Barry Groves](#), [Chamber of Commerce](#), [Matt Taylor](#), [Mayor Jac Siegel](#), [Merlone Geie Center](#), [Sears](#), [Terranomics](#), and [michael grehl](#)

The project is finally under way. How do you feel about it now? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

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COMMENTS (5)

[randy albin](#)
1:16pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2011
 i grew up around the san antonio center. over the years, there were alot of changes there.



[Claudia Cruz](#)

5:11pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Do you look forward to the new structure? What kind of retail would you like to see there



[Mark Weiss](#)

5:30pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2011

I think they should rename it Thoits Plaza.



[Claudia Cruz](#)

10:45pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2011

That's a novel idea, but perhaps just a plaque? :-)

[steve syufy](#)

1:27am on Thursday, August 25, 2011

it think that sould let sears have a new lease for 50 years.

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