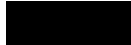




User Name / E-mail:

Password:



[Forgot password?](#)

■ BUSINESS online print edition



# Businesses boom in Gilbert

## Retail, office, hospital projects mushroom

**David van den Berg**

The Arizona Republic

Jun. 29, 2007 12:00 AM

Gilbert's business community is continuing its explosive growth.

Projects large and small are bringing stores, offices, health care facilities and more to the community.

Existing businesses are expanding.

"We have a very healthy business community," said Kathy Langdon, president and chief executive officer of the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce, calling this "quite a dynamic time."

Retail is showing the most dramatic growth with the town's first regional mall. In October, most of the SanTan Village shopping center is expected to open at Williams Field Road and Loop 202.

Harkins Theatres is drawing crowds to its 16-screen multiplex.

Tenants expected to join Harkins in the Westcor retail center include Dillard's, Banana Republic, the Disney Store, Eddie Bauer and Paradise Bakery.

"I remember when you couldn't buy a pair of shoes in Gilbert," Langdon said.

Gilbert's dramatic retail growth isn't limited to SanTan Village.

Its retail power center, which includes Costco Wholesale, Circuit City and other tenants, is open.

About two miles away, Main Street Commons is expected to start opening in phases this year. Planned tenants include Dolce Salon & Spa, Kona Grill and Tommy Bahama.

Here's a look at activity in other business sectors:

### **Health care**

Gilbert's third hospital, Banner Gateway Medical Center, is expected to open this year.

At the start of 2006, the town didn't have a hospital.

Last year, Gilbert Hospital and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center opened, with Gilbert Hospital opening first in February. Both are planning expansions.

The hospitals aren't the only medical facilities coming to Gilbert.

Plans for the campuses of Mercy Gilbert and Banner Gateway include medical office buildings, and other medical office projects are planned around town, including the Medical Plaza at Spectrum, at Val Vista Drive and Pecos Road.

### **Offices/technology**

While housing and business construction spreads out on former cotton and alfalfa fields, growth also is headed toward the skies.

Construction has begun on Rome Towers, a complex with two five-story office buildings, near Val Vista and Pecos. Plans call for the first floor to have retail. The towers will also house office condominiums.

While businesses are coping with high energy costs, one Gilbert start-up sees them as an opportunity.

Diversified Energy Corp. expects to more than double its revenues in 2007, according to founder Dave Thompson, who started satellite manufacturer Spectrum Astro and then sold it to General Dynamics.

Diversified is working with Carefree-based Alchemix on a gasification technology called HydroMax, which Thompson has said is showing positive results.