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Monday 11 June, 2007

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LA Fitness to be built on former mall site

By HAROLD KITCHING, Staff Writer

June 09, 2007

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A major site plan for a 24-hour LA Fitness center was approved Thursday night by the Casa Grande Planning and Zoning Commission.

Also approved were a major bakery operation, an expansion of Golden Eagle Distributors and more office buildings.

The fitness center would be located west of the IHOP restaurant and Super 8 motel on Florence Boulevard, in front of Palm Creek Golf & RV Resort. In January 2005 that location was announced as the site of a "neighborhood/lifestyle" retail shopping center and theater, with the promise that it would be open long before the major shopping center now being built at Florence Boulevard and Interstate 10. After that, the project disappeared from sight.

The plan approved Thursday night calls for a 45,000-square-foot LA Fitness building, with mezzanine, offering aerobics and cardiovascular areas, strength training, an indoor three-lane lap pool, full basketball court, five racquetball courts, a juice bar, sports training and showers and locker areas.

The commission was told that the fitness center should be open by next May.

Also on the 9 acres set aside for one phase of The Commons at Palm Creek will be 18,800- and 5,000-square-foot shop areas and two 5,300-square-foot pads for future development.

The area between those developments and Henness Road has been marked for future development, the staff report said.

In other action Thursday night, the commission:

- Sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council on a request to change zoning from garden and light industrial to heavy industrial to accommodate a major bakery operation and warehouse on 15 acres at the northwest corner of Lawrence Street and Thornton Road in Casa Grande Business Park. The name of the baking company is still being kept confidential, but the commission was told that the bakery and warehouse would total 100,000 square feet when both phases are completed and that there would be about 150 employees working two shifts.

- Approved a major site plan request for modifications and expansion onto 9.57 acres for Golden Eagle Distributors, west of the northwest corner of Thornton

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Road and West Ninth Street in Thornton Industrial Park. The project would include constructing a 33,736-square-foot building on the property.

- Approved a preliminary plat for Los Alamos professional condominium complex on 2.16 acres at 1187 E. Cottonwood Lane. The site now has a building occupied by orthodontist Dr. Grant Walton and an unoccupied building. The plan calls for adding a 4,497-square-foot building and another of 5,048 square feet.

- Allowed a preliminary plat request for Shops at Bella Vista Estates on 5.7 acres at the northwest corner of Kortsen and Peart roads. Included in the plan is an area for a new CVS pharmacy with drive-through and two future commercial areas.

- Approved a preliminary plat request for Regency Falls office condominiums on 7.6 acres at the southeast corner of McMurray Boulevard and Monument Plaza Circle. The plan calls for 49 office condominium units, broken down as 11 four- and five-unit buildings.

- Approved a major site plan request for a 5,104-square-foot Quik Trip store with 10 gasoline bays on an acre and a half at the southwest corner of Pinal Avenue and Havasupai Drive, part of the Copper Vista development's commercial area.

- Approved a major site plan request for Sabin office condominiums on 1.9 acres at the northwest corner of Sabin Drive and Pasteur Way in the area known as Casa Grande Medical Campus. The plan calls for a 19,000-square-foot project broken into two single-story buildings.

The commission also approved:

- A preliminary plat request to resubdivide 7.2 acres of Safeway property at the southwest corner of Trezell Road and O'Neil Drive.

- A major site plan for a 20-space tractor/trailer parking area at 1576 N. VIP Blvd.

- A preliminary plat request for Santa Cruz Village on 163 acres at the southwest corner of Rodeo Road and Pinal Avenue.

- A preliminary plat request for two phases of G Diamond Ranch on 220 acres at the northwest corner of Peart Road and Cottonwood Lane.

- A preliminary plat request for Central Arizona Commerce Park on 35.4 acres east of the northeast corner of Burris and Peters roads.

- A conditional use permit for an 1,867-square-foot garage/workshop on a 1.27-acre single-family residential lot at 1285 E. Mission Grande. Commission member Sandi Hennessey voted no.

Favorable recommendations were sent to the City Council on:

- A request to change zoning from urban ranch to general business on 7 acres south of the southwest corner of Trezell and Rodeo roads.

- A request to change zoning from county agricultural to planned area development on 535 acres east of the northeast corner of Florence Boulevard and Overfield Road.



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