

Westgate City Center comes to life

By Elizabeth Jackman

Six businesses in Westgate City Center will officially open their doors to the public at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

For the past week, construction workers have been busy hanging billboards, sweeping streets, putting up window treatments and putting on the finishing touches at the center.

Welcoming customers will be AMC Multiplex Cinema, Coffee Plantation, Cold Stone Creamery, Just Sports, Moe's Southwest Grill and Sweet O Wine and Chocolate Lounge.

"We are looking at this as a starting point for more phases to come," Director of Public Affairs Jeffrey Hecht said. "As tenants are ready to come on, we'll start building more phases."

Anchoring WCC is jobing.com Arena, a 17,799 seat multipurpose arena that hosts more than 160 events each year and is home to the National Hockey League's Phoenix Coyotes and the National Lacross League's Arizona Sting.

The AMC theatre boasts 20 screens and 4,000 seats. Their neighbor Sweet O Wine, set to open their first outlet, is a specialty shop featuring fine wines, pastries, Panini sandwiches and single origin chocolate bars.

People strolling through the plaza will be able to listen to music through a state-of-the-art sound system with speakers located on every light pole and every half hour can enjoy a water and light show.

"It will be at the top and bottom of every hour," Hecht said. "There will be lights with water in the fountain dancing as high as 40 feet in the air. It is called the 'Water Dance.'"

Two more businesses are scheduled to open Dec. 15: Johnny Rockets and Yard House, both of which are in the process of hiring 150 staff.



At the top and bottom of every hour, this large fountain located in the center of the plaza will dazzle visitors with a spectacular light and water show called "Water Dance." Water in the fountain will be dancing as high as 40 feet in the air.

“We are phenomenally excited,” Yard House Regional Manager Devon Reilly said. “Initially, we will just be open for lunch, but in February will extend our hours to include dinner. We have 130 handles of beer, 26 signature martinis and at least 300 to 400 kegs in our keg room at all times.”

Other businesses expected to open in the future include Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville and clothing shop Guess.

“Arrival of Westgate will forever change the face of retail, office and entertainment for the people of the West Valley,” Hecht said.

Phase I of WCC has a price tag of approximately \$140 million and includes slightly more than 500,000 square feet of retail and loft office space.

Hecht said WCC has dedicated parking so it will not conflict with events at the stadium or the arena.

Upon completion, WCC will include up to 6.5 million square feet of retail entertainment, restaurants, offices, residential units and hotels.

Estimated cost for the complete build out of WCC (223 acres on the south side of Glendale Avenue from 91st to 101st avenues) is \$850 million.

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