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Multiplex breaks ground in Indian Trail
by Lacey Hampton

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Stepping up as the first to turn the shovels and officially open the construction phase of the new Sun Valley shopping and entertainment complex Thursday were, from left, Vann Southard, George Couchell, Darlene Luther, Jeff Goodall, Dennis Moser, Herman Stone, Sharon Rosche, and senator Tommy Tucker. (RICK CRIDER/Enquirer Journal)

Indian Trail and county officials, residents, business owners and others look forward to the opening of a 14-screen multiplex at Sun Valley Commons in Indian Trail.

The first scoops of dirt at the site flew Thursday morning at the project's ground breaking.

The theater, which is scheduled for completion in June 2012, will sit near the intersection of Old Monroe Road and Wesley Chapel Stouts Road and will stretch about 55,000 square-feet, according to a statement.

"I think this is going to be the start of something so exciting for Union County," Herman Stone, the owner of Stone Theaters, which is building the theater, said Thursday morning.

He has been in the movie theater building business for many years and has built various ones around North and South Carolina. He hopes the one planned at Sun Valley Commons will attract not just Union County residents but people from Mecklenburg County as well. He chose Sun Valley Commons for the new theater because of the population and commercial area around it, he said.

"I think it's the hole in the doughnut, there's a lot of population but no movie theaters," he said.

The new theater will be the largest in the Indian Trail/ Union County area and will include more than 2,800 stadium seats, 14 fully-expanded wall-to wall screens, digital projection and PDX (Premium Digital Experience, large format auditorium), Dolby Digital and DTS Digital sound, rear window captioning for deaf and hearing impaired guests, a MovieAwards customer loyalty

program and concessions that include pizza by Pizzeria Uno, gourmet pretzels, hot dogs, nachos, Coca-Cola products and other items, according to the statement.

The project will cost \$60 million. Phase III will expand it to 53 acres. In addition to this, the project will provide room for new retail space. It is expected that it will create 198 new jobs in the first year and 800 jobs overall, according to a fact sheet.

The project will be beneficial for existing businesses and will bring in more businesses, Sharon Rosché, president of the Union County Chamber of Commerce, said.

“This project is a game changer,” she said. “It’s going to be helpful to existing businesses and new businesses.”

Besides Stone Theaters, The Moser Group, Inc., Indian Trail, Union County and others are working to together to make the theater a reality.

“They all live here and they’re going to build something that they can be proud of for years to come and if they don’t, I’ll have their hides,” State Sen. Tommy Tucker, who represents the area, said jokingly Thursday morning.

Besides him and Stone, various county and town officials, and others involved with the project spoke about the importance of it and how passionate they were about making it a reality.

“We have all worked tremendously hard,” Dennis Moser who owns The Moser Group, Inc., said.

Some local business owners said they looked forward to seeing the theater become a reality.

“I agree that there’s a lot of opportunity it’s going to create locally,” Kenda McCoy, the owner of Town Planner Community Calendars, said.

Nancy Boru who owns the Dolce Paradiso Bakery also likes the idea of having a theater come to the town.

“I think it’s great,” she said.

She hopes the theater brings in a lot of new people to the area who would not only use it but stop by hers and other local businesses, Buru said.

Read more: [The Enquirer Journal - Multiplex breaks ground in Indian Trail](#)