

**Two restaurants eye Walkertown
McDonald's and Bojangles would open next year
By Wesley Young
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WALKERTOWN

McDonald's Corp. and Bojangles' are planning to open restaurants in Walkertown next year, said officials familiar with the development plans.

The McDonald's restaurant will be in Walkertown Landing, a new shopping center that will be built on the northeast corner of N.C. 66 and U.S. 158, across from Walkertown Commons.

Glenwood Development LLC, the same company that built Walkertown Commons, will develop the restaurant. McDonald's would be the first business to open in Walkertown Landing.

The Bojangles' restaurant will be on an outparcel of Walkertown Commons along N.C. 66 heading toward Kernersville from Walkertown.

Patrick Hennigan, a Glenwood partner, said the new businesses are proof that the shopping centers can thrive.

"I would say that some of the national restaurants are starting to pay attention to Walkertown now, which is good because we have been trying to make that happen for about 10 years now," Hennigan said. "We hope we can continue to do a first-class job out there as we have been doing over these years."

Hennigan said that McDonald's would face U.S. 158 but also be served by a parallel interior road running through Walkertown Landing.

Another interior road in Walkertown Landing would parallel N.C. 66, Hennigan said. "We are doing some work out there right now," he said. "We are under way."

Hennigan said that both restaurants would like to open their doors sometime in 2008, although he doesn't have an exact timetable.

He said that the McDonald's restaurant would be followed by a few other businesses in Walkertown Landing as that project begins. He said that the shopping center is "picking up good momentum."

Earlier in the year, there was an effort to rezone some land on the north side of U.S. 158 at the intersection for a McDonald's and a Walgreens. The effort drew opposition

from residents of a nearby neighborhood who opposed the effect of expected traffic, and from those who said the spot was bad because of traffic concerns at the intersection.

The Walkertown Planning Board recently recommended that the town council approve the McDonald's restaurant. The council will consider the project at its Dec. 20 meeting.

Aaron King, a Forsyth County planner who works with Walkertown on zoning issues, said that the Bojangles' application had just come in and that the planning board must review it.

King recommended approval of the McDonald's restaurant, but said he hasn't had a chance to review the Bojangles' plans.

■ Wesley Young can be reached at 992-0067 or at wyoung@wsjournal.com.