

New look for south side of Chagrin

Thursday, January 04, 2007

By Karen Kurdziel
The Sun Press

SHAKER HEIGHTS Renovation has begun quietly in the retail district on the south side of Chagrin Boulevard at Shaker Town Center.

But next month repairs will become more noticeable, and new tenants are expected to sign leases soon. Revol Wireless, a cell phone company, has agreed to move into one of the soon-to-be-renovated buildings there.

Since fall, Crescendo Properties LLC of Cleveland has been replacing roofs and waterproofing basements of some of the seven buildings on Chagrin's south side that it bought from the city in August.

Crescendo has dubbed the area "Shaker Commons," according to a Nov. 13 press release. Come January, exterior work on the buildings will begin, said Russell Lamb, a Crescendo principal and Shaker resident.

"We'll be replacing all store fronts," Lamb said in a phone interview. "The first phase of the renovation will involve three of the seven buildings and should be finished by April. Then we'll finish the other four."

He said Revol Wireless will open temporarily next to Mr. Hero until its new space is ready in April.

Meanwhile, the city is also planning a major fix-up of the parking lot it owns behind the south Chagrin stores.

At the time the city sold the seven Chagrin Boulevard buildings to Crescendo for \$560,000, officials said they hoped owners of the six other structures in the retail area would get to work on their buildings as well.

The city paid \$1.4 million five years ago for the seven buildings it sold to Crescendo.

"Crescendo is developing the type of 'new town' center that other developers are introducing to Northeast Ohio," said architect Tim Mulle, whose firm is designing the project. "But there is a distinction," he said. "Crescendo is working with the real thing."