

Marquee 'Get Smart' gets rave reviews Inside



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MONEY TALK

How the market closed on 6/19/08

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Lowe's set to break ground in Auburn Hills

By JOSEPH SZCZESNY Of The Oakland Press

Lowe's, the nation's second-largest home improvement retailer, is preparing ground on a new \$18.5 million, 175,000-square-foot store near Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills.

Mark Witkiewicz, vice president of [Silverman](#) Development in Bingham Farms, said construction on the 18-acre site at I-75 and Joslyn Road should get under way next week.

The store is expected to open in the second half of 2009 and will eventually bring 175 new jobs to the area, said Witkiewicz, noting Auburn Hills Planning Commission recently gave its final approval to the project.

Lowe's has been looking at the Great Lakes Crossing site for some time, since it is relatively close to another home-improvement store operated by the company's arch rival, Home Depot, Witkiewicz said.

"The site has a lot going for it. It has everything a 'Big Box' retailer is looking for," said Witkiewicz, noting the store will be built in the center of highly developed cluster of retail outlets at I-75 and Joslyn.

"It's just a perfect site for them because of its visibility and its easy access to the freeway," Witkiewicz said.

[Silverman](#) was one of the first real estate companies to begin leading developments in the highly desirable Auburn Hills area in the 1990s and is now completing work on the city's last major land parcel — Great Lakes Corner. The corner is the last significant land opportunity in north Oakland County.

"The City of Auburn Hills has been anticipating Lowe's groundbreaking for some time. The location Lowe's chose will prove to be an asset to them with the easy access of I-75. We welcome Lowe's to our wonderful city knowing that we are still the hottest retail market in our region," said Auburn Hills City Manager Pete Auger.

"They should complement and add to our existing base. With the completion of Lowe's we will add to our long list of assets here in the City of Auburn Hills and look forward to having them in our city for many years to come," Auger said.

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