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update
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Economic Development Authority

A Partnership of Conecuh, Escambia & Monroe Counties

NEW DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED IN ATMORE

ATMORE - On Monday, May 22, City of Atmore Mayor Howard Shell announced the establishment of Rivercane, a 643 acre development located at Exit 57 on Interstate 65.

Rivercane is approximately 4.5 miles north of the City of Atmore and encompasses three of the four corners of the intersection of State Highway 21 and Interstate 65. Rivercane is owned by the City of Atmore and will include areas for retail/commercial, industrial and recreational activities.

“For many years to come, the initial impression of the City of Atmore will be generated once people exit I-65 here at Rivercane. We want that impression to be on of a progressive and first class city,” stated Mayor Shell.

Rivercane Project Manager Jim Corman stated that Rivercane will have distinctive characteristics such as all underground utilities, curbed and guttered streets, lakes with pedestrian pathways and a gazebo; as well as extensive landscaping. There will be no direct access onto Highway 21 from any retail establishment.

Mayor Howard Shell along with Atmore Industrial Development Board Chairman Richard Maxwell announced the first three sales of property within Rivercane.

The first sale was to Diamond Oil of Atmore for the construction of a state-of-the-art service station. The second and third sales of property were to John Tampa of Vision Hospitality in Dalton, Georgia, for the purpose of constructing two motels. The first motel will be a three-story, 72 room Comfort Suites. Construction is expected to begin in September 2006. The second motel will be a Hampton Inn and Suites with construction to begin in 2007.

Rivercane will be developed in phases. Phase I construction will begin in mid-June with an estimated completion date by the end of August.

Phase I is comprised of 46.7 acres of sellable property along with a six acre lake and a public park. Almost all of Phase I will be designated to retail use.

“The initial response by retailers to Rivercane has been overwhelming,” said Project Manager Jim Corman. “The fact that we are announcing three sales of property today, even though our formal marketing program has not yet begun, is a clear indication of Rivercane as an attractive retail destination.”

When asked about how many jobs are expected to be created, Corman said, “Our goal, our hope is that within three years we will have more jobs in Rivercane than currently exists in the entire town of Atmore. We’re talking about doubling Atmore in three years.”

Phase II will include an expansion of retail property and Rivercane’s first industrial sites. Phase II is tentatively set to begin construction in September 2006 with completion before year end. The primary industry recruiters are Coastal Gateway Economic Development Authority President, Wiley Blankenship and Escambia County Industrial Development Authority Director Marshall Rogers.

Saad and Vallas Realty Group of Mobile and John Stanley & Associates of Montgomery will be the listing brokers responsible for the sale of all non-industrial property within Rivercane.