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Solon: Stark withdrawing mixed-use proposal

Posted by [Bob Sandrick](#) January 10, 2008 16:25PM

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Stark Enterprises has abandoned its plan to build a 98-acre mixed-use development at the southeast corner of SOM Center and Aurora roads.

Bob Stark, president of Stark Enterprises, said he will submit a letter to Planning Director Rob Frankland tomorrow (Friday). It will say that he is withdrawing his mixed-use plan.

Stark made his decision because Gross Builders backed out of its Solon partnership with Stark Enterprises. Gross was going to build the senior housing component of Stark's mixed-use district.

"The (27.2 acres) Gross controls is critical in doing the mixed-use development," Stark said today. "Without it, we can't do the project."

Gross officials have refused to say why they severed their partnership with Stark.

"It's not for me to say what their reasons are," Stark said. "I'm sure at some point they will."

Gross now wants to build its senior housing independent of Stark.

Stark said recent reports that he may build a scaled-down version of his plan, perhaps resembling Eton in Woodmere -- are true. It would contain only retail, not housing or office space.

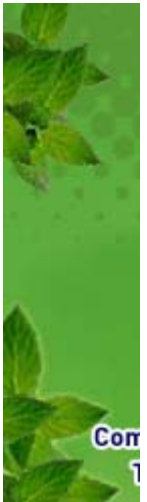
"We will try to make it happen, build something that's walkable and architecturally like Eton," Stark said.

The Coral Co. has also proposed a mixed-use development in Solon and that plan is still on the table. Council was going to decide between the Stark and Coral development Jan. 22.

Councilman Robert Pelunis said council may vote to proceed with the Coral plan, which would be built between Solon and Bainbridge roads, just east of SOM and south of Route 422.

However, council may not make the decision on Coral Jan. 22, Pelunis said.

Councilman Bill Russo said council should slam on the brakes. He said council



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should have a retreat -- open to the public -- where they could discuss what the city wants.

"We need to sit down and develop a plan instead of reacting to everything that happens," Russo said.

For more on this story, see the Jan. 17 Solon Herald Sun.

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