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GROWTH

Barkley Village expansion planned

Condominiums, apartments envisioned above stores, offices

**AUBREY COHEN
THE BELLINGHAM HERALD**

The developers of Barkley Village have announced plans to make the shopping and office center into more of an all-around urban village.

Barkley Company's latest plans call for three buildings, including two that would put condominiums and apartments above stores and offices. The buildings would go north of Barkley Boulevard along Newmarket Street, filling in land between the retail village and office buildings.

"I think we're finally kind of walking the talk and truly creating an urban village," Barkley Vice President Matthew P. Hammatt said.

City growth plans call for 23 urban villages that mix dense housing with stores, offices, parks and other amenities. They see eight, including Barkley Village, as being viable by 2022.

Barkley officials have always wanted to include residences in the village, but were wary at first, Barkley co-owner Stowe Talbot said. "We have more confidence now that we can do it right."

Bellingham officials also were unsure about dense residential villages, Talbot said. "Now they've come around 180 degrees and they're encouraging more density."

He added that the recent strength in the condo market "took everybody by surprise, including us."

Talbot and Hammatt said they hope to make the village, in Talbot's words, "a fun, happening neighborhood" by having amenities like good restaurants, events like concerts and an Easter-egg hunt and other things like landscaping, sidewalks and open space.

BARKLEY VILLAGE PLANS

Barkley Company's latest plans call for:

A 10,000-square-foot, two-story commercial building at the northwest corner of Barkley Boulevard and Newmarket Street, with the ground floor opening onto those streets and the second floor fronting on a two-level, 150-stall parking deck to the west.

A 50,000-square-foot building just north of the first building, with about 5,700 square feet of ground-floor retail and office space, a parking level and 36 condos and apartments on three floors. Because of the slope of the site the building would be five stories on the south end and four, with no commercial floor, at the north end.

A 100,000-square-foot building at the northeast corner of Barkley Boulevard and Newmarket Street with about 10,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and office space and 80 to 90 condos and apartments on three floors,

Barkley officials also are working on a master plan that includes parks and more office and retail buildings north of Barkley Boulevard, near Newmarket and Woburn streets; condos, townhouses and cottages to the east; and some retail and office space to the east along Barkley Boulevard and Sunset Drive.

Some of the new buildings are envisioned on parking lots that now take up much of the Barkley area. Plans include stacking more of the parking in garages, although the economics do not yet justify the expense, Hammatt said.

"We'll continue to explore how to ratchet up density," he said. "Obviously, putting the cars somewhere is a big part of that."

wrapped around two levels of parking. Because of the slope of the site the building would be five stories, with parking on the second floor, at Barkley Boulevard, and four, with no parking level, at the north end.

A pad for a 30,000-square-foot office building at the northeast corner of Barkley Boulevard and Woburn Street.

Company officials plan to apply for permits early next year, start construction by the middle of the year and finish by fall 2007.

Details: Call John Arrigoni at Barkley Company, 671-6450, ext. 103, or e-mail info@talbotusa.com.

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