



Plan calls for 700 homes on Jamestown Mall site

Community would include grocery store, businesses

BY NASSIM BENCHABANE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Officials here plan to turn the site of a long-vacant mall in north St. Louis County into a new residential community for more than 2,000 people.

McBride Homes will oversee the former Jamestown Mall site's transformation into a mixed-use development of more than 700 new residences, a grocery store and several businesses connected by a "network of community

amenities," St. Louis County officials announced Tuesday.

The move follows a yearslong fight over what to do with the 145-acre property near Old Jamestown Road and Lindbergh Boulevard after the mall's 2014 closure and demolition last year. The mall operated for 40 years, but its proximity to residential neighborhoods posed challenges to redeveloping the area, including for a scuttled plan to turn the site into an industrial park.

St. Louis County Councilwoman Shalonda Webb, who represents the area and opposed the industrial park proposal, welcomed the new plan with McBride.

"For years, people in this community have asked what would happen with this site, and they've been clear about what they want to see: quality homes, a grocery store and places for families and young people to gather," Webb said in a statement. "This plan reflects what our residents asked for, and I'm looking forward to meeting with the residents to discuss a name."

The St. Louis County Port Authority, a county government body that bought the mall site in 2017, signed an agreement with McBride Homes to serve as a master developer for the project.

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Kirkwood seeking fine for Ameren

Utility closed power plant years earlier than planned

BY SETH NELSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kirkwood and four other Missouri cities are asking a state appeals court to hold electric company Ameren Missouri liable for prematurely closing a major power plant, arguing the shut-down drove up energy costs statewide.

In a filing made with the Western District Court of Appeals last week, the cities — Kirkwood, Fulton, Hannibal, Marcelline and New Madrid — argued state regulators failed to hold Ameren accountable when they declined last month to fine the utility over the closure.

The appeal to a judge is the latest step in an attempt by the cities, all of which own their own electric utilities, to extract \$10 million in damages from Ameren and round out a yearslong legal fight over the plant at the center of the controversy.

The dispute dates to 2017, when a federal judge ruled that Ameren had violated the Clean Air Act by boosting electricity output at the Jefferson County-based Rush Island power plant through "major modifications."

In doing so, the judge found, Ameren had failed to obtain permits for the upgrades and didn't install necessary pollution-control equipment.

Retrofitting the Jefferson County-based plant would've cost as much as \$1 billion, Ameren said at the time. Rather than shouldering the cost, the utility shut down the plant entirely in 2021 — 15 years earlier than scheduled.

Last year, Kirkwood and the other cities brought their first complaint against Ameren to the Public Service Commission, a statewide body that regulates utility companies.

In filings with the commission, they argued that the sudden closure of Rush Island choked the supply of power to their electric departments and made electricity more expensive.

"Increased rates, depleted emergency reserves, curtailed services or maintenance and downgrading by bond credit rating entities," the cities wrote, "will cause collateral negative consequences for thousands of Missouri electric customers."

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'VICTORY IN ST. LOUIS'

PRESERVATION PROJECT



LAURIE SKRIVAN, POST-DISPATCH

Keith Powell applies an anti-graffiti coat over St. Louis artist Joseph Mueller's mural "Victory in St. Louis" on the east exterior wall of the racquetball courts in Forest Park on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Former St. Louis officer defends his actions

Bar owner was handcuffed after crash of police SUV

BY KATIE KULL
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — A former St. Louis police officer with a history of excessive force complaints took the stand in court on Tuesday, and insisted he was within his rights to handcuff the owner of a South City gay bar after a police SUV crashed into the building.

In a tense hour of testimony, Ramelle Wallace answered questions about his arrival on the scene, his decision to handcuff Bar:PM owner James Pence, and his choice to confront a bystander filming the incident.

"Are you going to tell the jury that you're not trying to intimidate this guy?" attorney Jack Waldron asked, pointing at the bystander in the video.

"I'm just being me," Wallace responded.

"That may be intimidating to some."

Wallace's testimony came on the first day of a trial in which Pence is accusing Wallace of assault. The proceedings are set to provide the fullest picture yet of an incident that garnered national attention and outrage from local politicians, residents and the region's LGBTQ community.

Wallace has denied wrongdoing. His lawyers, who work for the Missouri Attorney General's Office, say he was trying to stop a tense situation from getting out of control.

"It was an incredibly terrible accident," said attorney Kelli Reichert.

The incident started on Dec. 18, 2023, when a police SUV sped through south St. Louis, running red lights. Inside the car were officers Zachary Thompson and Joel Carvajal — both probationary officers working overtime shifts.

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CHRISTIAN GOODEN, POST-DISPATCH

St. Louis police Officer Ramelle Wallace testifies on Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the Mel Carnahan Courthouse during the trial for a lawsuit brought against the police department by Bar:PM owner James Pence. Pence alleges he was assaulted by police after they crashed a patrol vehicle into his establishment three years ago.

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