

CAGAN

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sidewalks intended to promote strolling by the community's residents. Retro-style lamp posts line the landscaped streets.

According to Cagan, the 56,000-square-foot town center, nearing completion, has been a long time coming and will be the heart of the community.

The Cagans had very a specific and detailed vision for the

town center. This resulted in delays, as they had trouble finding the ideal architects to make the vision a reality.

Cagan said that one of the couple's main goals was not to put up a strip mall.

The town center will include more than 30 retailers such as Gator's Dockside, Sherlock's Tees and Quizno's. The shops and restaurants will join Simka's Sweets Ice Cream Parlor, a shop that has become a favorite of the tenants.

There will also be a dentist's

office, a furniture store, a hair salon, an Indian restaurant and a winery. Other businesses may include a dry cleaner and a bakery.

Not all of the residents are renters. There are 50 condos above the retail stores and more than 100 townhouses planned around the edges of the town center.

"The townhouses and condos are our first foray into for sale products — we're really excited

about that," said Cagan. "This completes the mix."

Also on the way is a 30,000-square-foot library, a collaboration between Lake, Orange, Polk and Osceola counties. Groundbreaking on the facility is set for July.

Cagan spans 7,000 acres on both sides of U.S. Highway 27, with a Wal-Mart, which opened in 2004, on the east side of the highway. There are also plans for a Lowe's on 18 acres just

north of the Wal-Mart and a Chik-fil-A, Chili's and Riverside Bank going up around it.

Sandy Cagan said that although the mixed use concept — with residential units above retail buildings — is relatively new to Florida, it is common back in her home of Chicago and in places like New York.

Cagan said she hopes residents will be enamored of the "small town feel."

Cagan said that, as a teen, her first job was at Baskin Robbins. She never had to worry about getting there, because she rode her bicycle to work.

"I really love the community and think when it's completed, it will be 'the' place," said Wendy Hunter, two-year resident employed at Disney. "I love the little ice cream shop here. I can just walk outside, walk a little ways and get ice cream at 8:30 at night if I want to."

SHELTER

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other funds are earmarked for the league's day-to-day expenses, like veterinary bills — which run around \$100,000 a year. General donations are used wherever they are most needed.

The league operates with the help of foster parents who care for animals between adoption days held on Saturdays.

"It's just foster homes, there's only a limited amount

of space. We're not always able to help when we like to," Priestley said.

Parker said the league averages 200 to 300 pet adoptions a year and there are plenty of animals to help. The league rescues abused, abandoned and neglected dogs and cats from throughout Lake County.

"We take them in," Parker said. "They go to the vet, get checkups. Any procedures or surgeries we do. Then we try to adopt them out."

The foster homes accept only dogs and cats, but Parker said the league occasionally gets calls about other animals, including ferrets, rabbits and

horses. When that happens, she said, animal care coordinator Jenny Gomes acts as a placement counselor, letting other people and rescue organizations know about the animals in need.

The league gets the occasional odd call, too.

"One time, someone called about a lobster," she said.

When the shelter is finished, the league expects to be able to accommodate about 50 adult dogs and 30 adult cats at any given time. County regulations prohibit larger numbers. There is no limit, however, on puppies and kittens, so the league will take in as many as it expects to

be able to adopt out.

Priestley expects adoption rates to at least double when the shelter is finished, because potential adopters will have more than one day a week to come visit the animals. She said that is a conservative estimate.

"We certainly are hoping for more than that," she said.

Much of the shelter's staff will be volunteers, but two of the league's three paid employees will help run the facility. Gomes may go from full-time to part-time, Parker said.

Foster homes will remain an integral part of the organization. Instead of on-site quarantine, foster homes will keep new animals until their needs have been assessed. Special-needs animals — those that need medication or extra human attention, for example — will also be fostered by the league's volunteers.

Unlike some rescue organizations, the league is committed to a no-kill policy. Animals are cared for until they are adopted, no matter how long that takes.

And unlike animal control, prospective owners can not simply pay a fee and take an animal. The league interviews all those wanting to adopt pets. The rigorous process includes a home visit, to ensure the animal will have a suitable life, as well as a record of the owner's pet history.

"We just want people to be aware of what's involved when adopting an animal. They need attention. They need to be played with," Parker said.

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