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\$10M retail expansion cleared for Mt. Juliet

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A Wilson County developer has been cleared to build a \$10 million expansion of a development on the northern end of Mt. Juliet.

Developer Ben Forkum will start construction early next year on a 4-acre shopping center called Fountain Plaza, Forkum said last week.

The development is part of the larger Mt. Juliet Commons development, a mixed-use project that features another commercial development and more than 150 single-family houses and townhouses.

The Mt. Juliet Municipal-Regional Planning Commission approved the Fountain Square plan at a meeting Thursday.

The 36,000-square-foot project has been designed by Lebanon architect Michael Manous as a lifestyle center, an open-air shopping plaza that features amenities and stores aimed at upscale shoppers.

The development will be built on speculation, meaning no tenants have yet signed up, but Forkum aims to attract at least two restaurants, boutiques, professional offices and possibly a day spa.

"This is really a prime location in Mt. Juliet," Forkum said. "Wilson County has the second-highest median household income in Tennessee, and the northern side is where all the people are."

Forkum's plans call for building four buildings in two phases. Combined, these buildings will have room for as many as 18 businesses, with spaces available from 1,250 square feet to 13,450 square feet.
