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Macomb Daily

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Where the bread is

Developer gets started on local projects with a Panera Bread restaurant — 7C



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Saturday, March 12, 2005

MONEY & BUSINESS

In Pursuit of development

■ Shelby-based developer sinks its teeth into local projects.

By Dan Heaton
Macomb Daily Business Editor

Pursuit Development, which recently relocated its office to Shelby Township from Florida, has completed its first project in Michigan.

This week, a Panera Bread restaurant opened on Van Dyke, just south of Metro Parkway, in Sterling Heights in a 10,000-square-foot outlot development in the parking lot of a Meijer's store. The center also includes a Countrywide Home Loans location, and a T-Mobile store is expected to open soon.

Bill Chalmers, who owns Pursuit, said the development is part of a couple of trends.

"This is the first Panera in Sterling Heights and among the first anywhere to open using their complete new design, inside and out," he said over a bowl of piping hot soup at the restaurant. And, he said, it's only been in the last few years that Meijer's has gotten onboard with the idea of developing outlot properties at its stores. In the past, Meijer's was hesitant to allow outlot development, preferring higher visibility instead.

Both Chalmers and his wife are natives of metropolitan Detroit and wanted to return to this area after they be-



Macomb Daily staff photo by Craig Garfield

Pursuit Development, which recently relocated to Shelby Township from Florida, has completed its first project in Michigan. This week, a Panera Bread restaurant opened at the location, on Van Dyke south of Metro Parkway in Sterling Heights.

gan having children. Chalmers began his career in property development with the Detroit office of the national firm Trammel Crow and eventually was relocated to Florida by TC. After several years in the Sunshine State working for TC, he launched his own development company and now has

about \$50 million worth of properties that were developed and owned by Pursuit.

"Working in Sterling Heights was great," Chalmers said. "Dean Martindale, the city planner, was right on top of things for us."

Turner Construction was the con-

tractor on the development.

Chalmers said his company will continue to do work in Florida, but is seeking to expand its presence in Michigan as well. Currently, he said, Pursuit is considering opportunities in Port Huron, Canton Township, Westland, Monroe and Royal Oak.