

Alta Vista center opening now

After more than three years of planning and a switch in major tenants, the 78,000 square foot shopping center at Alta Vista has opened.

Burger King and Kragen Auto Supply have opened, Mountain Mike's Pizza is scheduled to open next week, Hansen Real Estate will move into its new offices soon, and Payless ShoeSource and Lucky Discount Center are scheduled to open in September. The center will have no official name.

A little more than half of the space in the center has been leased, but developer Dave Powell of Santa Anita Development Corp. said, "I think we'll be 100 percent leased by the time Lucky opens."

The center would have been open a year ago had it not been for a switch in major tenants, Powell said. After Alpha Beta changed its plans to be the anchor store for the center, it took some time to find a new tenant. Lucky will close its store in Crestview Center when its opens the new store.

"The location is so good that we never gave serious thought" to delaying the project, Powell said. "It's the best location in the city — 32,000 cars go by here every day."

The developers were required to put up the stoplight at Alta Vista Avenue and Freedom Boulevard and the put in the center divider along

Freedom. A culvert to make sure water from Struve Slough doesn't flood the center was also required.

The Kragen store is the company's third in Santa Cruz County. (The others are in Santa Cruz and Capitola.) The 4,900 square foot store is managed by Bob Bliss, who was manager of one of the Kragen stores in Salinas. A grand opening is planned for this weekend.

Mountain Mike's, franchised by a Palo Alto chain that started in 1978 and now has 30 restaurants, will be operated by brothers Ted and Alex Golshanara of San Jose. The 2,700 square foot restaurant will serve pizza, sandwiches, and beer and wine. The tentative opening date is July 15.

Real estate agent Al Hansen plans to move from his present building (now in the corner of the center) to the two-story building at the north end of the center later this month. The old building will be moved the the rear of the center on property Hansen owns. Although the new building is part of the shopping center, it is on a separate parcel owned by Hansen.

The shoe store and Lucky are scheduled to open in September. Lucky, which will close its store in the Crestview center when the new store opens, will have a wider selection of food and will also be selling clothing.