



Cabela's gives Lacey its application amid fanfare

CHRISTIAN HILL – 11/16/2006

The city received an early birthday present Wednesday. A really big present.

Outdoors retailer Cabela's submitted its development application for a 185,000-square-foot retail showroom as a developer officially unveiled plans for the new 400-acre urban town center that will surround it.

The announcements are the first concrete steps for the creation of a downtown for a city that will celebrate its 40th birthday next month.

"This is truly a great day in the history of Lacey," Mayor Virgil Clarkson told the assembled politicians, business leaders and city employees who packed into the council chambers at City Hall for the announcements.

Kevin Rhodes, Cabela's director of real estate, ceremoniously handed the development application to Clarkson to applause during the event.



Kevin Rhodes, director of Real Estate for Cabelas, addresses a large crowd gathered at Lacey City Hall Thursday morning to hear about Cabela's latest store which will be built in Lacey. (Steven M. Herppich/The Olympian)



Tri Vo, President of Triway Enterprises

About 350 workers

Cabela's wants to open its \$40 million store by late 2007. It would be located along Interstate 5 in Hawks Prairie near Carpenter Road. It would employ approximately 350 people. Rhodes said wages would be "competitive" but couldn't provide a salary range because he said it depends on the experience and education of the individual employee.

The Nebraska-based company bills itself as the "world's foremost outfitter," selling tens of thousands of items for hunting, fishing, boating and camping through its mail-order business and Web site as well as its 18 retail showrooms. The company is aggressively expanding its retail division.

"It is a candy store for people who embrace the outdoor lifestyle, there's no question about it," Rhodes said.

The property owner, Hawks Prairie LLC, donated roughly 30 acres for Cabela's to build on. The city awaits legislative approval to secure a \$9.9 million state grant to pay for the roads to serve Cabela's and the associated development.

The store will anchor the town center called Lacey Gateway that will mix housing, employment, retail shops and recreational facilities in one location.

The development will feature reclaimed water, trails and parks, low-impact development and "green" buildings, said Tri Vo, a prominent South Sound developer who leads the project as managing member of the property owner, Hawks Prairie LLC.

"I look forward to this becoming a model for others to envy and to follow, and people will no longer say, 'Where's Lacey and how do I get there?' This will put us on the map," said Rep. Sam Hunt, D-Thurston County.



5/11/2005..... Elk, Caribou and moose busts are part of the 600 mounts displayed in the store which opens May 26th. The Cabela's outdoor store located at Highway 170 and I-35 in North Ft. Worth will be opening at the end of May with interior features such as a conservation mountain, Aquariums, an exterior water feature, an African Diorama, a laser shooting gallery and a trophy game museum. Photo Ralph Lauer