

Business At Burnsville Center

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Is Good

BURNSVILLE--After a huge grand opening last summer, business at the Burnsville Center is good, its merchants and administrators report.

"As far as we know, sales are in excess of the anticipated sales of the tenants," said Grasper Lee, promotion director for Homart Development Co., developers of the center. "Most tenants are pleased. The people count far surpasses our expectations."

The center's opening drew over 200,000 people to the center over the 10-day festivities, Lee said. "This center's opening was one of the best Homart has experienced."

The center's fourth department store, Penney's, is scheduled to open in June, Lee said. There are now 112 stores in the center, which has a capacity for 160-165. Leases are still being written, Lee said.

The Tribune contacted several stores in the center, which were chosen at random. All reported good sales, allowing for the usual January slump.

A spokesperson at B. Dalton Bookseller, said that sales were well over the planned volume, and the same as or better than other B. Dalton's stores.

At The Limited, a women's clothing store, sales are steady, and good during special sales, manager Sally Rosenthal said. Sales are usually slow in January and February, she said.

January sales weren't "fantastic" at Elements, which sells home accessories and cookware, said manager Mark Lellman, but sales brought in customers and the volume is starting to pick up.

Sales at Schaak Electronics started off well and then slowed down somewhat, but are still good, said manager Tim Melcher. The sales at the Burnsville store surpassed the Ridgedale Shopping Center Schaak store at its opening, he said.

The Burnsville Center, located at Co. Rd. 42 and I-35W, is the largest shopping center in the state. It's 112 stores include Daytons, Powers and Sears.