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# Hilltop Press



## College Hill has big dreams for intersection

By Heidi Fallon

Staff Reporter

COLLEGE HILL - Big dreams, big buildings and big money are involved in the College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corp.'s plan to bring the intersection at Hamilton Avenue and North Bend Road back to life.

Businesses at three of the four corners have been vacant for more than a year in the case of CVS and more than four years for the former Shuller's Wigwam restaurant.

Marty Weldishofer, president of the nonprofit, volunteer organization, said the impetus for the ambitious development plans started last fall.

University of Cincinnati design students were enlisted to come up with the conceptual drawings presented to the redevelopment group and residents last week.

Drawings show a mixed use of retail, including restaurants, a three-screen theater and specialty shops; offices and upscale apartments and condominiums.

Weldishofer said the project is designed to lure young professionals and older couples whose children have grown up and moved out.

"There's nothing like that in College Hill," Weldishofer said. "We are looking for ways to get the 50,000 people who drive through that intersection every day to stop and shop and spend their money."

Weldishofer said he's more than optimistic that Cincinnati officials will make good their intentions to help the group secure the Shuller site.

He said the city has allocated \$1.3 million to buy and raze the building.

Weldishofer said he hopes the owner of the CVS property, as well as the owner of the Kroger site, will "play ball" with the project.

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The next step, Weldishofer said is to compete a feasibility study which the group hopes to have done by May.

"My goal is that we will be breaking ground on one of those properties by 2005," Weldishofer said. "It is going to happen."

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