

open in the fall, intended to draw tenants from the University of Maryland and Howard and Catholic universities, among others.

The project should be finished within a year, with the exception of the Safeway, which is expected to open in 2008.

The Mall at Prince George's, near Blumberg's site, has Target, Old Navy, JCPenney and Hecht's as anchors. [Home Depot](#) is nearby. "This area is changing dramatically," Blumberg said. "We don't mind the competition."

Blumberg bought the land in 1954. He built office complexes but was unable to put together the mixed-use development he envisioned.

Now that the tide is turning, Blumberg said he is glad that he kept the property. As he walked the site, he showed off the slabs of concrete that will become patios for the condos and the steel beams that will hold up the building's walls. From the top of the student apartments, the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral could be seen near the horizon.

"He had this dream for 50 years," Tim R. Taylor, vice president of leasing for Prince George's Metro Center, said of Blumberg. "He wanted to see it come to fruition."

Closings

· The General Services Administration appointed William B. "Bart" Bush assistant regional administrator for the Public Buildings Service in the National Capital Region. He is responsible for GSA's portfolio of 93 million rentable square feet in the Washington area, and its more than \$3 billion in major construction and repair projects. For the past five years, Bush managed property for the New York state Office of General Services.

Lerner Enterprises announced plans for an 18-story, 472,000-square-foot office tower that will be its fifth building in the Corporate Office Center at Tysons II in McLean. Company principal Mark D. Lerner said in a written statement that construction will begin in the summer of 2007 even without a tenant signed up. "We have always had significant pre-leasing in these buildings prior to their completion," Lerner said.

· The Alexander Co., which is refurbishing the historic National Park Seminary in Silver Spring, is seeking purchasers to restore one or more of 10 single-family homes on the long-vacant site that was once a hotel, then a girls' finishing school. The architectural styles include a Japanese-style bungalow, a Dutch windmill and a Swiss chalet. The company said it will concentrate on renovating larger buildings on the site. Information about the solicitation is posted at <http://www.nationalparkseminary.com>.

· McShea & Co. of Gaithersburg, a commercial brokerage and management firm, appointed Gayle Thrift vice president and portfolio manager. She was previously the company's director of construction management.

Staff writer Cecilia Kang contributed to this report.