



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

A Best Buy store takes shape March 28 next to Northridge Mall in north Salinas. The store, expected to open June 23, sells electronics, computers and entertainment software.

North Salinas expanding

More stores and housing projects are on the horizon

By **ZACHARY STAHL**
The Salinas Californian

New stores and new homes are coming to north Salinas.

The part of the city already known for its shopping — it's home to Northridge Mall and a number of other shopping centers — is opening a Best Buy store this summer.

The 30,104-square-foot retail store, which will sell electronics, comput-

ers, and entertainment software, is being built south of Toys R Us at the mall.

"We think it will bring a customer that is looking for electronics in particular," said Greg Millsap, senior property manager at Northridge Mall.

The grand opening is set for June 23, said Jay Musolf, spokesman for Best Buy.

Also this year, construction is expected to begin on a retail shopping center west of the Salinas Auto Mall.

Boronda Crossing will include Lithia Motors, MY Auto Dealers and two other car dealerships in addition to a Kohl's department store and a

new site for Home Depot, now located in Harden Ranch Plaza at San Juan Grade and Boronda roads.

The developer for the project is Tony Sammut, who also developed Westridge shopping center along North Davis Road, another north Salinas shopping destination.

In terms of recreation, the Salinas Sports Complex at 1034 N. Main St., home to the California Rodeo Salinas, hosts events such as concerts and dances frequently.

Sherwood Hall, next to the Sports Complex, offers symphony concerts.

As soon as late 2007, new homes could be going up north of Boronda Road in between San Juan Grade and Williams road.

Over the next 20 years, the city wants to add about 11,700 homes in the nearly 2,500-acre area northeast of the city limits.

The central area, which is north of Boronda Road roughly between Independence and Constitution boulevards, will be home to Creekbridge II, with Creekbridge Homes as the developer of the 744-acre area.

"It's going to be an old-fashioned neighborhood," said Bill Satterlee, public relations director for Creekbridge.

The developments are all going to follow "new urbanism" principles, which stress walkable neighborhoods with a variety of architectural styles.

Contact Zachary Stahl at zstahl@thecalifornian.com.