

# New Foley's at Post Oak ready for final touches

By KARI FLUEGEL  
Staff Writer

Boxes and crates are sitting covered with dust. Carpet is lying in rolls waiting to be laid. But by the beginning of October the carpet will be laid and the boxes and crates will be gone. In their place merchandise will be displayed and the new Foley's will open in Post Oak Mall.

The interior construction is about 60 percent complete but work has now reached the point where the fi-

nal touches will be quickly applied, Mike Billingsley, store manager, said.

Show cases will begin to arrive soon, and Sept. 3 employees will begin stocking merchandise.

The store is designed according to a loop-aisle plan, Lynda Shanblum, regional sales promotion manager, said. The main loop circles the store with the various departments on either side of the loop.

Foley's is the only two-floor store

in the mall and therefore has one of the few store escalators in the Bryan-College Station area.

A sky light in the atrium area, where the escalator is located, in addition to adding light will give the store a sense of space, Shanblum said.

"It's going to be a very energy efficient store," Billingsley said.

The store is scheduled to open Oct. 1, but Foley's will host a benefit celebrating the opening Sept. 27.

All proceeds from the benefit will be given to a charity in the Bryan-College Station area. The charity has not yet been named.

"When we go in, we try to be an immediate member of the community," Billingsley said.

Foley's is trying to gear the store to the community, Billingsley said. Colors on items such as store signs, stationary and business cards have been changed to burgandy instead of the orange in the Austin store and

the blue in the Houston stores.

Residents in the area were surveyed about what they wanted in the store and store plans have been changed to meet those needs, Billingsley said. The size of the women's department was tripled, he said.

Other departments in the store include men's, juniors', teens', and children's clothing, accessories, cosmetics, electronics (televisions and computers), home decorations and housewares.

Another Foley's promotion will be the Helping Hands program. With Helping Hands, area children will be invited to make plaster hand casts. Their initials and the date will be written at the bottom of the cast. The casts will be glazed and placed at the mall entrance as a permanent part of the store.

The Helping Hands will be made Aug. 19, Shanblum said.

In a few weeks, Foley's will begin to hire more than 200 employees.

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