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## businesses, homes, park

# New Development Proposed Between Grasslands and Lakeside Village Mall

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THE LEDGER

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LAKELAND | The Birmingham, Ala., development company that built Grasslands and Oakbridge in South Lakeland wants to build a 35,000-square-foot commercial development north of Lakeside Village plus 27 upscale homes and a community park for residents.

The Lakeland Planning and Zoning Commission could vote on the new 50-acre Drummond Co. development at the Nov. 16 meeting.

The development, called "North Village," would have about seven businesses, including possibly a restaurant. A separate 15,000-square-foot drugstore could be located across from Starbucks at the entrance to Lakeside Village.

Three residents told the board at a hearing Tuesday they were worried the development would clog traffic on Harden Boulevard, disrupt their peaceful lifestyle near the golf course and reduce the wetlands area.

Lynn Schindler, who lives in Grasslands, said it could just be another strip mall.

"We have vacancies at Lakeside Village," Schindler said. "Do we really need an additional 35,000 square feet?"

"I just don't want to see another Memorial Boulevard or Florida Avenue," Schindler said.

Officials with Drummond said they will work with residents.

The gated residential community, located behind the businesses, will have 3,000- and 4,000-square-foot one-story homes.

Leonard Mass, vice president of land development for the company, said the businesses will have signs at pedestrian level with restricted lighting. No fast food restaurants are planned for the area.

"We're trying to make a commercial development look more residential in theme," Mass said.

Robert Miller, of Grasslands, said he was concerned about how far the development will be built from the golf course.

Miller, who lives on the course, said trees should surround the course to buffer the



development.

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