



2001 Palm Beach Post file photo

Children and their parents enjoy the children's entertainment area in The Mall at Wellington Green.

Mall at Wellington Green celebrates first anniversary

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WELLINGTON — The Mall at Wellington Green opened a year ago today, a godsend of sorts to shopping-deprived residents in the western reaches.

"My sense is that the community has embraced us," mall manager Larry Beermann said this week. "We knew we would fill a void."

No longer do folks in Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee and The Acreage have to drive 30 minutes or more to a mall. The 1.3 million-square-foot center at the corner of Forest Hill Boulevard and State Road 7 is a quick jaunt for most residents.

The Wellington mall also has

attracted a cluster of national retail chains to a 4-mile stretch of State Road 7 from Okeechobee to Forest Hill boulevards.

Lowe's, BJ's Wholesale Club and an 18-screen Regal Cinemas multiplex all opened within the past few years after Taubman Centers Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., announced plans to build the mall. Others have followed suit within the past year.

"That whole section of the world is being reshaped," said Steve Miskew, a West Palm Beach real estate broker specializing in shopping centers.

Exactly how well the mall is doing is unclear. Taubman doesn't

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