

Albany, Crossgates complete land-buy accord

A land-purchase agreement between Albany and the Crossgates Mall has been completed.

However, Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III said details wouldn't be released until Pyramid Crossgates Co., the mall developer, made an announcement, possibly next week.

Crossgates managing partner Robert Ungerer was not available for comment Wednesday.

Whalen has previously said the city

would receive "in excess of \$100,000" from Pyramid Crossgates. The money, Whalen said, would be used to purchase privately owned land on the Albany-Guilderland border near the Pine Haven Country Club.

The city is receiving the donation as the result of a 1980 agreement between the late Albany Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd and Pyramid Crossgates.

Under the agreement, the developer was to donate 60 acres of the Pine Bush ...

or money for Albany to buy the land — if the company was authorized to construct its shopping mall in Guilderland.

Since taking office upon Corning's death May 28, Whalen and Corporation Counsel Vincent McArdle have been negotiating the agreement with Crossgates.

With the mall having opened Sunday, Whalen said negotiations were completed. However, he won't consider the deal concluded "until I have the check in hand."