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Editor's Note: Thank you to Local Voice Terri Foschini for alerting Patch of this new business.

Soon, West Cobbers won't have to sharpen their sabers before setting out on the Seven Seas to hunt for treasure.

That's because a new antique mall is bringing the treasure to them.

<u>Treasure Hunt Antique Mall</u> is set to open during the last week of this month in the former Fred's store in West Cobb Plaza at the intersection of New Macland and Macedonia roads in Powder Springs.

The owners, Sheila and Jim Conway, don't have an exact date yet as they're finalizing their business license.

It will be the fourth antique mall started by the Roswell couple—the first being in Acworth in 2002, then East Cobb, then Covington. Though they no longer own them, all three are still running successfully, Sheila said.

Sheila is originally from Douglasville, "so Powder Springs is almost like coming back home." Since there aren't any antique malls in the area outside of Kennesaw and Marietta, the Powder Springs mall will fill a hole in the market, she said.

Initially, the 27,500-square-foot mall will have 250 booths sectioned off, but there is warehouse space to expand beyond that.

The Conways have been signing up vendors for a couple weeks now, and the minimum lease is six months. Pre-opening specials include the first month free for six-month contracts, and the first and last months free on a year contract.

Referral fees are also being offered.

"The antique mall is like a big family," Sheila said. "People will know other people who do antiques, and they may be in multiple malls. So they can then tell their buddies."

The vendor's presence isn't necessary for customers to buy.

"They do not have to be here to make the sales like when you go to a flea market," Sheila said. "We have paid staff, and we process the sales and collect sales, so it's like going to shop at any other store."

The Whole Strip

The Conways are in this business for the "long haul," Sheila said. Treasure Hunt will be the anchor tenant in what she calls a "huge investment."

The couple purchased the entire strip mall at New Macland and Macedonia roads and have since been fixing it up with projects like repaving and painting. Sheila said there are five vacant spots left in the strip for those wanting to lease.

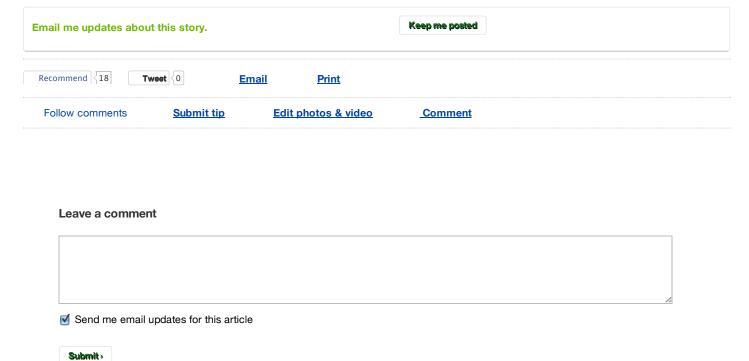
She said she's focused on getting quality vendors to set up shop in the antique mall because "the better anchor tenant you have, the better the strip center will do."

"My point being: We're really committed to this, and we want to see it done well."

Though they could expand, Treasure Hunt's hours will start at Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

Those interested in being a vendor of the antique mall should call 678-398-9195, and the number for those wanting to lease a space in the strip mall is 770-591-0078. Sheila can be reached by email at swconway44@aol.com or through Treasure Hunt's website.

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