

we anticipate that moviegoers from the Twin Cities will come to experience the magic of the UltraScreen," said Marcus president Bruce Olson. Groundbreaking on the Oakdale project is slated for fall, putting the theatre on track for a spring 2005 grand opening.

MISSOURI

PLEX PLANNED IN SPRINGFIELD

Local developers are attempting to bring a brand new theatre to downtown Springfield, according to reports. Partners Scott Tillman and Tim Rosenbury have presented plans to Springfield's city council detailing their \$12 million cineplex, which is to be located nearby the area's Park Central Square. A contract between Tillman and the city of Springfield stipulates that the site hold at least six screens, but Rosenbury's early blueprints call for a 10-screener. Tentatively dubbed College Station, the state-of-the-art theatre, if approved, would serve as an anchor for a retail and entertainment complex currently under development.

NEW JERSEY

TWO FRANK THEATRES SITES TO BLOSSOM IN GARDEN STATE

Regional circuit Frank Theatres has

unveiled its intent to bow two new cineplexes. The Egg Harbor Township-based exhibitor is constructing both theatres in its native New Jersey. Located in the communities of Absecon and Hammonton, the stadium-style moviehouses will each offer 12 screens and digital sound systems. Both venues are slated for a 2005 grand opening.

PARADISO MAY BE FOUND AGAIN IN EASTON

An upstart circuit known as Community Theatres is aiming to reopen a shuttered arthouse in the town of Easton. The new company has signed a long-term lease to operate the former Cinema Paradiso, which closed to the public about two years ago. A Community executive told local press that the four-screen plex itself is in solid condition but that the sound and projection systems needed to be upgraded. Community is tentatively planning to relaunch the Cinema Paradiso during the Thanksgiving holiday.

NORTH CAROLINA

EASTERN FEDERAL PLANS NEW CHARLOTTE SITE

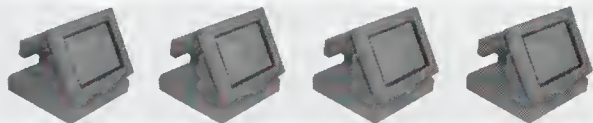
Charlotte-based exhibition chain Eastern Federal Corp. is reported to be planning a new state-of-the-art plex in the Elizabeth

neighborhood of its hometown. The targeted site for the new movie theatre is at the corner of Fourth Street and Hawthorne Lane, atop an 800-space parking deck. Tentative plans call for the venue to comprise nearly 40,000 square feet and as many as eight screens, with amenities to include stadium-style auditoriums and digital sound systems. With theatre construction not expected to begin until the first phase of the parking deck is finished in July 2005, the opening date of the multiscreener has been set for sometime in 2007.

OHIO

EXHIBITOR GOES CONTINENTAL IN COLUMBUS

Columbus' former Cinema Grill at the Continent has been given a new lease on life as a second-run venue. Expected to be relaunched under the name the Continent Cinema, the eight-screen moviehouse will be operated by longtime AMC Entertainment executive Larry Gardner. In addition to screening second-run features, theatre management is also considering such options as satellite-fed sporting events and festival programming for the theatre. Other possibilities for the site include a modified version of the original dinner-and-a-movie concept, with the installation of wider seats and more space



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