

## A big Target to build



Written by Michael Willard (ONE Publisher)

Thirteen months after Newton hit the "bull's-eye," area residents will soon see earth start to move on the future home of Target Corp.'s new distribution center.

And it will be a lot of earth that moves.

"They will disturb 189 acres," said Newton Planning Director Glenn Pattishall. "The scope of this is pretty incredible."

The area of land planned for grading is just one hint at the enormity of a project that will some day create 620 new jobs at the facility itself.

"The building site is going to have under one roof 36 acres," Pattishall said. "One wall of the building is more than 2,100 feet long."

With a scale like that the \$90 million facility will be almost a half-mile long, and it will require a concrete foundation that is almost 1.6 million square-feet in area.

"Right now, they are moving equipment in and getting things ready to go," Pattishall said. "We should see construction trailers on the site in the next week or so."

As site preparation proceeds, an early step will be soil erosion control measures, Pattishall said.

"They will put up silt fencing initially and then cut in sediment basins," he said, adding that semi-permeable fence barrier, like the site itself, will be huge. "For the silt fence itself, we're not talking feet, but probably miles. You are looking at a significant amount of silt fence."

All total, the site encompasses almost 250 acres. Pattishall said the bulk of that will require land preparation by grading company Clary Hood, which also provided site preparation for Google's Caldwell County site.

Silt fences, Pattishall said, will have to be established around all acreage that is graded. At least three sediment basins are planned for the site, too, he said, and these are hundreds of feet long and eight- to 10-feet deep. Once construction is complete, these basins will remain as storm water retention facilities.

Site plans submitted to the city of Newton also include other interesting statistics.

When complete the site will feature 841 employees parking spaces, and 1,123 total tractor-trailer parking spaces.

With these staggering numbers in mind, is there a larger single facility in Catawba County?

"There is not anything that I am aware of," Pattisahll said, adding progress on the project as a whole is going "pretty good."

The site will be landscaped at least 16 different plant varieties, including black-eyed susans, hibiscus, lizard's tail, spiderwort. There's even partridge peas and several pairs of trees.

"The city has completed extension of the water lines to serve their construction staging area," he said. "They should start grading any time now."

Target is tentatively slated to take complete control of the facility in March 2009. When fully functional the facility will employ at least 620 people earning an average wage of at least \$32,000.

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