



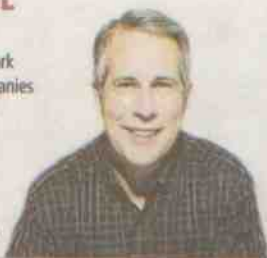
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TODD GRAVES
GRAVES BARTL
1100 MAIN ST
KANSAS CITY

Block will double Shoal Creek center

\$55M expansion will add 300,000 square feet

BY JASON SHAAD | STAFF WRITER

Block & Co. Inc. Realtors will spend about \$55 million to double the size of its Plaza at Shoal Creek retail development in the Northland.

The Kansas City-based real estate development company will

add about 300,000 square feet of retail space directly west of its Plaza at Shoal Creek shopping center, at the southwest corner of Barry and Flintlock roads near Liberty.

Once complete, the entire development will contain about 600,000 square feet of retail

space at a total cost of more than \$100 million.

David Block, a principal and broker with Block & Co., said strong residential growth and tenant demand have fueled the planned expansion.

"We're all rented up, so it's

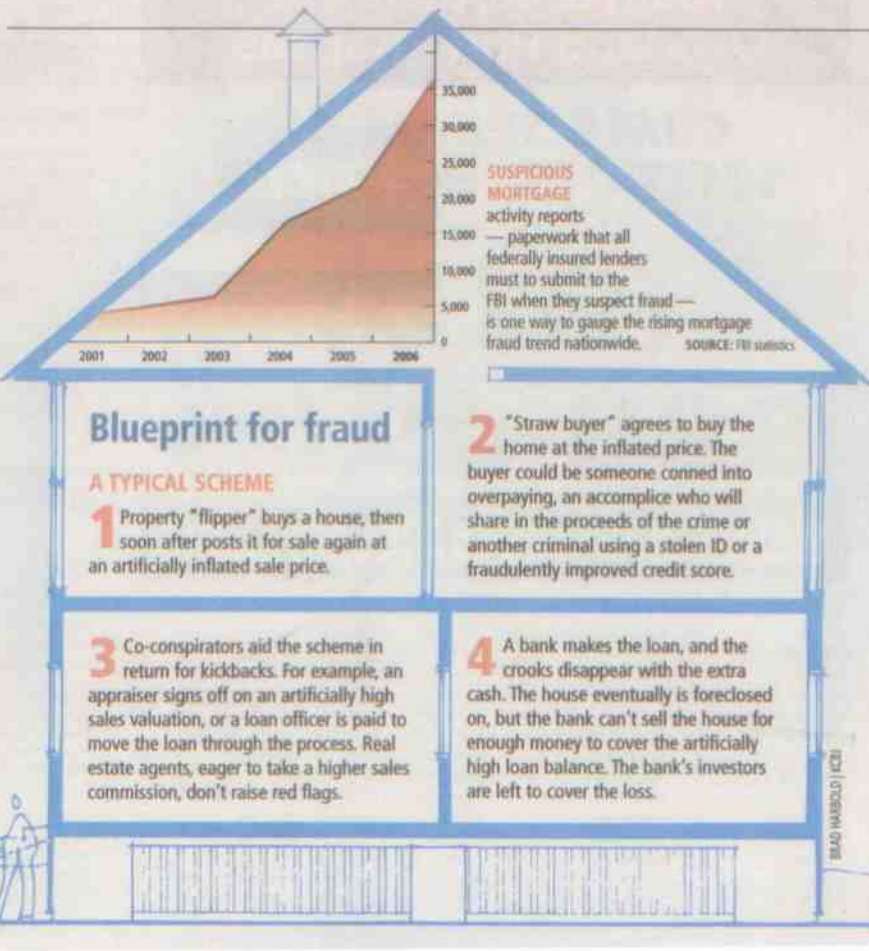
very, very good up there," Block said. "There are needs, believe it or not, that have not been met in the Northland."

He said the company is negotiating with several tenants, including a bookstore and a couple of clothiers. Big-box retailers will occupy about 150,000 square feet of the development, he said.



Block

SEE BLOCK | 41



Kansas will pursue big tax cuts

Proposals could save businesses \$154 million

BY CHRIS GRENZ | STAFF WRITER

A year after cutting property taxes on new business machinery and equipment, Republicans and Democrats in the Kansas Legislature this session are looking at several other key tax breaks for businesses.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has proposed reducing the state's franchise and corporate income taxes as a means of spurring job creation. That plan, which would cost about \$37 million, followed her proposal in December to cut the unemployment tax rate for Kansas employers to the tune of \$80 million a year.

Republicans seem to be on board — but some want to go further. On Jan. 18, the Kansas House Taxation Committee was scheduled to have a



Bold moves, challenges are nothing new to Todd Graves

BY CHRIS GRENZ | STAFF WRITER

U.S. District Judge Gary Fenner first noticed Todd Graves when Graves won an election to become Platte County prosecutor in 1994.

Fenner took note not because Graves was just 29, had never tried a jury trial and was suddenly leading a county prosecutor's office. No, Fenner did a double-take because of where the young lawyer had come from.

Graves gave up a lucrative spot as an associate at Bryan Cave LLP to take on the long hours, comparatively low pay and high stress of public service.

"A lot of attorneys start out in those kind of positions and get their experience as a prosecutor or an assistant" before jumping to a large firm, he said.

"I really hadn't seen people leave the security and the financial rewards available in the big firms to take on a job like that," he said. "I thought that that was kind of a bold move on Todd's part."

Bold moves and public service were nothing new to Graves. Right out of law school, he declined a job at a New York law firm offering a \$95,000 salary to accept an assistant attorney general slot in Jefferson City that offered about a quarter the pay. He left that job to run a political campaign, and after twice being elected Platte County prosecutor, he received a presidential appointment to serve as U.S. attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

Today, Graves is working with a friend from his undergraduate days at the University of Missouri, state Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit. Their firm, Graves Bartle & Marcus LLP, is a boutique firm that handles extremely complex business litigation and counseling in addition to white-collar crime.

"Money is not something that motivates him," said Bob Thompson, managing partner of Bryan Cave's Kansas City office, where he and Graves were summer clerks together 15 years ago. "Opportunities and challenges motivate him."

Graves thrives on complexity and a challenge. But no professional challenge has ever equalled the test he endured at age 21, when he was diagnosed with cancer. Told he most likely wouldn't survive, he endured an intensely invasive surgery and went through a year of chemotherapy. It was a defining time in his life.

"I realized at an earlier age than most that whether I had five weeks, five months or 50 years, there was an end to it," he said. "It focused me. I really devel-



DAVE KAUF | KCBJ

Todd Graves says his early fight — and victory — against cancer "focused me."

oped a desire to tackle challenges.

"I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction when I feel like I have the answer and I can help someone."

Graves, 41, was raised on a farm near Fairfax, Mo. He and his wife, Tracy, and four children today reside on a Platte County farm that has been in the family since 1867. Graves, who raises cattle on his active farm, always knew he'd be a farmer. He just didn't expect to be a lawyer, too.

But his love of complex challenges and a desire to study Civil War and Thomas Jefferson history took him to law school in Virginia, where he continued fostering an early interest in politics. Graves took a stint off from college to campaign for U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., and was bitten by the political bug. (It runs in the family; his brother, Sam, is a congressman.) After working on several political campaigns, Graves said he wanted to blend his passion for law and politics when he decided to seek office in 1994.

After winning the race, Graves asked Roseann Ketchmark — whom his wife had met while campaigning door to door — to come work for him as the of-

TODD GRAVES

Title: Partner, Graves Bartle & Marcus LLC

Age: 41

Family: Wife, Tracy; children, Katie, 9, Hank, 8, Joe, 6, and Ben, 4

Education: Bachelor's in agricultural economics with a minor in political science, *summa cum laude*, University of Missouri, 1988; law degree and a master's degree in public administration, University of Virginia, 1991

Hobbies: Farming, reading, traveling and (as a private pilot) anything related to airplanes

ice's lead prosecutor. Ketchmark, who now is a federal prosecutor, then was an assistant prosecutor in Jackson County. Graves wanted her to handle some of the most complex cases while training and mentoring the younger lawyers — including himself. Ketchmark said Graves was a fast study and spent time reading state statute books and evidence manuals. When the rare Platte County homicide popped up, Graves often personally chose to handle it.

In one such case, Graves successfully prosecuted a getaway driver for the

death of an accomplice, who had been shot and killed by an FBI agent. It's a complex murder charge, one not even recognized by many states. And it can be tough to get a jury to understand how someone who didn't pull the trigger can be guilty of murder by virtue of being an accomplice to a crime.

Many elected prosecutors would shy away from such a tough case, fearing a loss would hurt them later at the polls, Ketchmark said.

"He did what he truly thought was the right thing to do, even though there was a significant chance of an acquittal," she said.

After losing a bid to be Missouri state treasurer in 2000, his political connections helped usher him into the U.S. attorney's office. Sworn into office six days after Sept. 11, 2001, Graves served on an advisory committee helping to guide Department of Justice priorities as it wrestled with anti-terrorism efforts and a crackdown on corporate fraud.

As U.S. attorney, Graves found more of what he craved. The cases were more complicated, the lawyers on both sides were more capable, and the scope of what the office could do was much broader. But the job kept him on the road and away from his growing children 100 nights a year. And the red tape and bureaucracy was draining.

He and Bartle had long talked of forming a law firm. The plan was to specialize in extremely complex cases and to consult on government regulation in the Sarbanes-Oxley era. Bartle and David Marcus founded the firm in July 2005, when both lawyers left Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenbrandt LLP. Graves joined in March.

"We are interested in representing people who have complicated problems, and it's the biggest problem they've ever had in their life," Graves said. "We're foxhole lawyers. When a person or company feels like they're in a foxhole, we want to be the guys they'd want to crawl in there with them."

Bryan Cave's Thompson said he has no doubts that will be the case.

"His career, as impressive as it has been to date, really is just getting started," he said. "His impact on this legal community is only going to continue to grow."

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