

# That new auto mall smell

## Decades-old center gets \$1 million makeover

*Saturday, June 3, 2006*

**By Mike Nolan**  
*Staff writer*

The Orland Auto Mall — once a high-mileage beater — has a sporty new look.

The 21-year-old retail center — a collection of auto-related businesses — has gotten a \$1 million makeover. Orland Park officials and executives with Ardmín Properties Real Estate Investment Group Inc., the center's owner, took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday.

The 22,000-square-foot center is at 9264-9280 W. 159th St., just east of Jewel-Osco. Tenants include A-1 Radiator, Avis, Car Care Collision Center, Firestone Tire and Auto, Orland Transmission and Verizon Wireless.

Over the years the center had fallen into disrepair and was "somewhat unappealing," according to Joe Ardovitch, president of Woodridge-based Ardmín Properties, which bought the property in March 2005.

The rehab began shortly after Ardmín bought the property, and work was completed just last month, Shawn Adams, Ardmín's vice president of marketing, said Friday.

The renovation project included a new facade and overhead doors, new parking lot and landscaping.

The Firestone shop had been operated by a franchisee and had closed prior to Ardmín's purchase of the mall. Orland Transmission moved into the Firestone space, but was relocated after Firestone agreed to open a company-owned repair shop in the mall, Adams said.

Friday's event was a big deal for Firestone, drawing executives from the company including Larry Magee, president and chief executive of BFS Retail & Commercial Operations LLC, the Bloomingdale-based operator of Firestone repair centers nationwide. It's owned by Bridgestone Americas Holding Inc., the Nashville, Tenn.-based maker of Bridgestone and Firestone tires.

The auto mall was built in 1985.

Locally, Ardmín also owns Governors Office Park, a collection of office buildings at the southwest corner of Vollmer Road and Governors Highway in Olympia Fields.

The company also is planning to develop Bronk's Corners, a 39-acre retail center at the northwest corner of Route 59 and Theodore Street in Joliet. The center is named for the family that had owned the property, Adams said.

So far, Amcore Bank and X-sport Fitness have agreed to open in the center, he said.

*Mike Nolan may be reached at [mnolan@dailysouthtown.com](mailto:mnolan@dailysouthtown.com) or (708) 633-5952.*