

United Bank branch replaces Wachovia on South Ocean

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The former site of the South End's Wachovia bank is on the verge of coming back to life after sitting vacant for more than a year.

Scaffolding and new windows on the west side of 2875 S. Ocean Blvd. are readily visible from the roadway as workers prepare for the planned opening of a Bank United branch.

Alfred Malefatto, the attorney representing Bank United, is scheduled to go before the Town Council Nov. 10 for a special-exception request.

If approved, the new bank could open in December.

It will take up about 3,500 square feet of space on the first floor and needs approval even though the previous tenant also was a bank.

Town records show a building permit was issued Sept. 8 for \$413,000 worth of renovations.

According to county records, 2875 Development Group sold the property to 2875 Investors LLC for \$3.1 million, which was the balance on the mortgage loan.

Palm Beach attorney Les Evans was one of the former owners. Brett Forman, son of Evans' late business partner Sam Forman, is one of the new owners.

Forman said Monday Bank United is the first business to sign a lease at the South End property.

He said the south side of the property is being redone with new stucco and other improvements. He also said the interior will have a complete renovation with space planned for executive office suites and possibly a hair salon, the same uses as before.

The building has sat vacant since September 2009 when Wachovia left the building.

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