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Harrisburg Mall, Colonial Country Club to be sold at auction



JOHN C. WHITEHEAD, The Patriot-NewsHarrisburg Mall in Swatara Township, Dauphin County, is to be sold Thursday at a sheriff's auction. The Harrisburg Mall on Paxton Street in Swatara Township and the Colonial Country Club on Linglestown Road in Lower Paxton Township are scheduled to be sold Thursday at a Dauphin County sheriff's auction.

The 200-acre country club defaulted on a \$3 million mortgage with M&T Bank and also is in default with Triple Crown Corp. of Lower Paxton Twp., which bought the mortgage from the bank.

The mall's deed-holder, Feldman Lubert Adler Harrisburg, defaulted last year on its \$50 million mortgage with TD Bank of Toronto. The bank started foreclosure proceedings.

The future of the 40-year-old mall appears uncertain, thanks to "a saturation of shopping choices" and changed spending habits in the current economy, said Bob Gorland, vice president of Matthew P. Casey & Associates, consultants for shopping centers and supermarkets.

"In the short term, Harrisburg Mall has a tough future overall unless they find additional tenants or have better lease rates," Gorland said. "Shoppers find it more convenient to go to neighborhood and strip shopping centers. More than a half dozen major shopping centers have been built in Dauphin County in the last 20 years. They're taking a toll on the Harrisburg Mall."

As of last month, on the mall's first floor, seven stores were closed and 27 open. Upstairs, 12 were closed and 36 open, not counting kiosks.