

Haggen, Talbot seek aura of Seattle's Pioneer Square

BY TRASK TAPPERSON

Two Whatcom County economic giants say they will build a nine-building, downtown-like development near the boom-growth area on Bellingham's north side.

Included is an \$8 million Haggen supermarket scheduled to open Nov. 1.

The project, called Barkley Village, is planned for an 11-acre site at the 230-acre Rimland Pacific Business Park, south of Sunset Drive and east of Interstate 5.

No overall cost figures were available, but "it will be multi-millions," said business park owner Jim Talbot.

His powerful, family-owned company is joining with the family-owned Haggen Inc. grocery chain to develop Barkley Village and two office towers nearby.

Together, the construction will become the biggest unified development in Bellingham since Bellis Fair mall in 1988.

The Barkley Village brick facades, city streets and landscaping will create an atmosphere similar to Seattle's Pioneer Square, Talbot said.

Don Haggen, chairman of the grocery company, called it an "urban village."

"We want a neighborhood feel, but an urban neighborhood - not a suburban strip center - with pleasing, substantial-looking



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buildings," he said. "You get your hair cut, get your cleaning done, buy books, sporting goods."

The commercial and residential development will kick off in May with the groundbreaking for Haggen's third supermarket in the county.

"The store will be virtually identical to the company's Sehome Village

store in features and its 57,800-square-foot size," Haggen said. "It is expected to create 175 permanent jobs," he said.

Haggen and Talbot said they hope to get some of the other buildings in the joint venture under way next year as well.