Retail: Several comings and goings as leases expire at Florida Mall

February 5, 2010 By Sandra Pedicini, Orlando Sentinel

There's a little change of scenery in Florida Mall.

Several stores are closing, but general <u>manager</u> Brian Peters points out that the mall has signed up new tenants as well.

F.Y.E. will close early this year. Peters said the store will be replaced by **A'Gaci**, a trendy women's clothier.

Hallmark has closed, and Italia Moda, a menswear shop, will temporarily take its place. Everything But Water will open in the former Swim 'n Sport. Sperry Top-sider is going into a formerTommy's Island.

T-Mobile will go into the former **Mango** space. **Cold Stone Creamery** will replace **Mrs. Fields Cookies**. Peters said many of the store closures were 10-year lease expirations, from companies that signed up when Florida Mall underwent a big expansion.

Other stores will likely close this year as their leases expire, he said, but in most spots "we already have somebody lined up ready to go."

Park Promenade returns

Park Promenade Jewellers, which closed two Central Florida locations, is reopening them, according to Tom Harris, who ran Winter Park's store. Harris said an investor is taking over about 14 of the more than 180 stores that **Finlay Enterprises** announced last year it would close. Harris identified the investor as North Carolina resident Russ Cohen, who could not be reached for comment. Harris said he expects to reopen his Park Avenue store around the spring.