

METRO

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Housing Takes Priority In Pinellas

By CARLOS MONCADA
The Tampa Tribune

CLEARWATER — Four years ago, political consultant Todd Pressman helped the owners of the old Coca-Cola plant in Palm Harbor secure a rezoning from Pinellas County to build a shopping center anchored by a grocery store.

The commercial project never materialized,

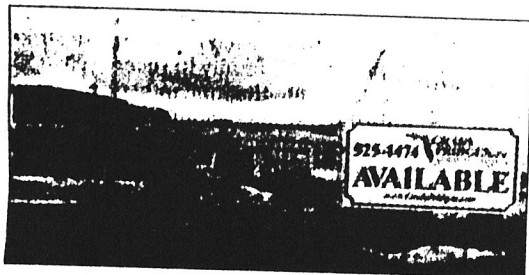
and now the property's new owner envisions something else for the languishing 8-acre eyesore at Klosterman Road and Alternate U.S. 19: a residential community of up to 100 town houses.

That land-use case, along with a spate of others in various stages of the approval process, underscores the recent interest among property owners and developers in turning

commercially or industrially zoned land throughout Pinellas County into housing.

"We've had several requests to change from commercial or industrial to residential," said Paul Cassel, the county's Development Review Services director.

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County trying to expand industrial base.



Tribune photo by BRUCE HOSKING

Construction of a mixed-use project is under way at the former sod farm property on the east side of 28th Street North in St. Petersburg.

Expressway Authority Plans A Party

IT WILL CELEBRATE ELEVATED ROAD

By KEN KILLEBREW
The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — With 10 weeks to go before traffic begins flowing across the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway's reversible lanes, plans are under way for a celebration.

Work on the \$492 million project is expected to be completed by Aug. 31, and the road will be opened to traffic. A ceremony is planned for a month later, in late September.

Flirty Pythons Aid Park's Quest

