



REAL ESTATE **ROOSTER**™

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## The Inside Scoop on the People & Places that Shape Atlanta Real Estate



### Brookhaven's Spot



**Orinda Corp. President Dillon Baynes.**

Every neighborhood needs a spot, a walkable, browseable stretch - or two - with retail and restaurants, homes and commercial space.

The foundation for Brookhaven's spot was laid a few blocks east of Peachtree Road on Dresden Drive by the developers of **Village Park Place at Brookhaven** and then **Village Place at Brookhaven**, which **Dan Woodley** began before recession brought the project to a standstill.

Enter Chicago-based **Wrightwood Capital** and its local partner, **Orinda Corp.** and its president, **Dillon Baynes**. Wrightwood and Orinda took over the project in mid 2009 and have it back on track, with 85 percent of the retail leased, 25 of 41 condos sold and six of 12 office condos sold or under contract. Baynes isn't satisfied with a market moving at 40 miles per hour - he'd prefer 70 - but the pieces are coming together.

Restaurants and stores like **Yoforia, Verde, Mercantile, J. Christopher's, Cocktails and Canvas** and **The Library** have set the stage for the next round of imminent openings, which includes wine store and event space **Pour**; baby furniture and nursery design with **Egg's Nest**, which is owned by interior designer **Katherine Kinney**; and **Kaleidoscope Bistro and Pub**, which opens next month with former **Buckhead Diner** chef **Joey Riley** at the helm.

"Getting that initial traction took a while, but we had a patient, financially strong owner, strong location and demographics that are just a dream," Baynes said. "It was the right idea, just the timing wasn't right. Fifteen years from now this will all be infill."