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Live Nation strikes deal for Silver Spring concert hall

Washington Business Journal - by [Erin Killian](#) Staff Reporter

Live Nation plans to open a concert hall in the former JC Penney department store site in Silver Spring where the Birchmere Music Hall was originally going to open.

The Los Angeles company, which manages music venues, is holding a press conference with Montgomery County officials Wednesday at noon to announce the deal.

Live Nation will open the hall called The Fillmore in the 10,000-square-foot space at 8656 Colesville Road owned by Silver Spring-based **Lee Development Group**. The space is part of a \$80 million project that includes a 152-room hotel, a 183,000-square-foot office building and a 650-space parking garage.

The hall will be able to hold up to 2,000 people and could open by early 2010.

"We're excited about Live Nation," said Montgomery County spokesperson Patrick Lacefield. "We tried to get Birchmere and they wouldn't commit. We're signing a letter of intent today. We'll move from the letter of intent to negotiate a binding use by the end of the year."

Under the agreement, Lee Development will contribute \$3.5 million in land for the music hall and for public improvements and The State of Maryland and Montgomery County will contribute \$4 million each for the project.

The deal comes two days after 9:30 Club owner Seth Hurwitz sent a letter to Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett expressing interest in site.

The Birchmere, meanwhile, announced today it is opening a 500-seat concert hall in College Park.

Live Nation (NYSE: LYV) owns, operates, has booking rights to or an equity interest in more than 160 venues, including House of Blues and Fillmore music venues and London's Wembley Arena.

