

SAUL CENTERS INC
Form S-3
December 20, 2012
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 20, 2012

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SAUL CENTERS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction)

52-1833074
(I.R.S. Employer)

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

of incorporation)

Identification Number)

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1500

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

(301) 986-6200

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Copies to:

Jeffrey B. Grill, Esq.

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

2300 N Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20037

(202) 663-8000

Approximate date the registrant proposes to begin selling securities to the public: From time to time following the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer x
 Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities of Each Class to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered (2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2)	Amount of Registration Fee (3)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share				
Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (4)	\$200,000,000		\$200,000,000	\$27,280
Depository Shares (4)(5)				

- (1) Offered securities registered hereunder may be sold separately, together or as units with other offered securities registered hereunder.
- (2) There are being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of securities of each identified class as may from time to time be offered for sale at indeterminate prices. In no event will the aggregate maximum offering price of all securities registered under this registration statement exceed \$200,000,000. The proposed maximum offering price per security has been omitted pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3. The registrant will establish the proposed maximum offering price per security if and when it offers securities registered under this registration statement.
- (3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) of the rules and regulations of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (4) In addition to any preferred stock or depository shares that may be issued directly under this registration statement, there are being registered hereby an indeterminate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be issued, either at the option of the holder thereof or the registrant, upon conversion of or in exchange for preferred stock or depository shares issued by the registrant, for which no separate consideration will be received.
- (5) To be represented by depository receipts representing an interest in all or a specified portion of a share of preferred stock. Each depository share will be issued under a deposit agreement.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED DECEMBER 20, 2012

PROSPECTUS

\$200,000,000

Common Stock, Preferred Stock and Depositary Shares

We may from time to time offer, in one or more series, separately or together, the following:

shares of our common stock.

shares of our preferred stock; and

shares of our preferred stock represented by depositary shares.

The aggregate initial public offering price of the securities that we may offer through this prospectus will be up to \$200,000,000.

We will offer our securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time we offer such securities.

When we sell a particular series of securities, we will prepare a prospectus supplement describing the offering and the terms of that series of securities. Such terms may include limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer of our securities being offered that we believe are appropriate to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust for federal income tax purposes.

You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

We may offer our securities directly, through agents we may designate from time to time, or to or through underwriters or dealers. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of our securities, their names and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them will be set forth or will be calculable from the information set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. None of our securities may be sold without delivery of the applicable prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such class or series of the securities.

Investing in our preferred stock, our preferred stock represented by depositary shares and our common stock involves risks. See **Risk Factors beginning on page 13 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference, for risks relating to an investment in our common stock, our preferred stock and our preferred stock represented by depositary shares.**

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2012.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	3
<u>Saul Centers, Inc.</u>	4
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	4
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>	4
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	5
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	5
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	9
<u>Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws</u>	11
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	16
<u>Legal Matters</u>	17
<u>Experts</u>	17
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	17

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$200,000,000. Our prospectus provides you with a general description of these securities. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and may also provide you with a free writing prospectus that will contain specific information about all of the terms of that offering. Our prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the information in the prospectus and the prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus, you should rely solely on the information in the prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

References to we, us or our refer to Saul Centers, Inc., Saul Holdings Limited Partnership, which we refer to as the Partnership, and their respective directly or indirectly owned subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires. We conduct our business and operations through the Partnership and/or directly or indirectly owned subsidiaries. The term you refers to a prospective investor. Saul Centers, Inc. is the sole general partner of the Partnership and, as of September 30, 2012, owned an approximately 74.1% interest in the Partnership. In addition, B. Francis Saul II, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, family members of Mr. Saul, entities controlled by Mr. Saul and other affiliates of Mr. Saul, whom we collectively refer to as The Saul Organization, hold the remaining interests in the Partnership, all of which are limited partnership interests.

Table of Contents

SAUL CENTERS, INC.

We are a self-administered and self-managed real estate company operating as a real estate investment trust, or a REIT, for federal income tax purposes. Our primary business strategy is the ownership, management and development of income-producing properties. Our long-term objectives are to increase cash flow from operations and to maximize capital appreciation of our real estate.

As of September 30, 2012, our properties consisted of 50 operating shopping center properties, seven mixed-use properties which are comprised of office, retail and multi-family residential uses, and two (non-operating) development properties.

Our principal executive offices are located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1500, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 and our telephone number is (301) 986-6200. Our website address is www.saulcenters.com. The information contained in our website is not a part of this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will contribute the net proceeds from a sale of securities to the Partnership in exchange for substantially identical securities of the Partnership. The Partnership will use the net proceeds from the sale of securities for one or more of the following:

redemption of any preferred stock or depositary shares then outstanding;

repayment of debt;

acquisition of additional properties;

development of new properties;

redevelopment of existing properties; and

working capital and general corporate purposes.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND EARNINGS TO

COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated:

	For the Nine Months Ended		For the Years Ended December 31,			
	September 30, 2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.75 X	1.60 X	1.77 X	1.92 X	2.13 X	2.15 X
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	1.34 X	1.21 X	1.30 X	1.40 X	1.58 X	1.77 X

For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income from continuing operations plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest and amortization of debt expense, capitalized interest and interest portion of rental expense. The ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends were computed by dividing our earnings by fixed charges and preferred stock

dividends.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following description of our common stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the common stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate, including a prospectus supplement providing that common stock will be issuable upon conversion of our preferred stock. The statements below describing the common stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of our articles of incorporation and bylaws. You should read our articles of incorporation and our bylaws for more complete information.

Authorized Stock

Our articles of incorporation allow us to issue up to 30,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of September 30, 2012, we had 19,769,875 shares of common stock outstanding, 40,000 shares of 8% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock outstanding (which we refer to as our Series A preferred stock) and 31,731 shares of 9% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock outstanding (which we refer to as our Series B preferred stock).

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock elect all directors and are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders. Stockholders are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available for that purpose, subject to any preference in favor of outstanding shares of preferred stock. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of common stock are entitled to share *pro rata* in any distribution to common stockholders after payment of our liabilities and payment of any liquidation preferences in favor of outstanding shares of preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive, subscription or conversion rights.

The rights of holders of common stock are subject to the rights of holders of any preferred stock that we have designated or may designate in the future. The rights of preferred stockholders may adversely affect the rights of the common stockholders.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The following is a general description of the preferred stock that we may offer from time to time. The particular terms of the preferred stock being offered and the extent to which such general provisions may apply will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The statements below describing our preferred stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of our articles of incorporation and our bylaws. You should read our articles of incorporation and our bylaws for more complete information.

Series A Preferred Stock

Pursuant to articles supplementary to our articles of incorporation, we designated 40,000 shares of preferred stock as Series A preferred stock, all of which were outstanding as of September 30, 2012. The Series A preferred stock is represented by 4,000,000 depositary shares, each representing 1/100th of a share of Series A preferred stock. The depositary shares may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the \$25.00 liquidation preference, at our option from time to time. The depositary shares pay an annual dividend of \$2.00 per depositary share, equivalent to 8% of the \$25.00 liquidation preference. The Series A preferred stock has no stated maturity, is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption and is not convertible into any of our other securities. Investors in these depositary shares generally have no voting rights, but will have limited voting rights if we fail to pay dividends for six or more quarters (whether or not declared or consecutive) and in certain other circumstances.

Series B Preferred Stock

Pursuant to articles supplementary to our articles of incorporation, we designated 34,500 shares of preferred stock as Series B preferred stock, and 31,731 such shares were outstanding as of September 30, 2012. The Series B preferred stock is represented by 3,173,115 depositary shares, each representing 1/100th of a share of Series B preferred stock. The depositary shares may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the \$25.00 liquidation preference, at our option from time to time. The depositary shares pay an annual dividend of \$2.25 per depositary share, equivalent to 9% of the \$25.00 liquidation preference. The Series B preferred stock has no stated maturity, is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption and is not convertible into any of our other securities. Investors in these depositary shares generally have no voting rights, but will have limited voting rights if we fail to pay dividends for six or more quarters (whether or not declared or consecutive) and in certain other circumstances.

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock

General. Shares of preferred stock may be offered and sold from time to time, in one or more series, as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is authorized by Maryland law and our articles of incorporation to set for each series the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption. The preferred stock will have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any additional securities which we may issue in the future. This means that the purchasers of shares of preferred stock will not receive any rights, as a holder of preferred stock, to buy any portion of the securities which we may issue in the future. The Board of Directors has the power to set preferences, powers and rights, voting or other terms preferred stock that are senior to, or better than, the rights of holders of common stock or other classes or series of preferred stock. The offer and sale of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of our control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be favorable to them.

Terms. You should refer to the prospectus supplement relating to the offering of any preferred stock for specific terms, including the following terms:

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

the number of shares of preferred stock offered and the offering price of those shares;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation of any of those terms that apply to those shares of preferred stock;

the date from which dividends on those shares of preferred stock will accumulate, if applicable;

the terms and amount of a sinking fund, if any, for the purchase or redemption of those shares of preferred stock;

the redemption rights, including conditions and the redemption price(s), if applicable, of those shares of preferred stock;

any listing of those shares of preferred stock on any securities exchange or automated quotation system;

the relative ranking and preference of those shares of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs;

any limitations on issuance of any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with that series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for those shares of preferred stock;

any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of those shares of preferred stock;

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

a discussion of federal income tax consequences applicable to those shares of preferred stock; and

any limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer in addition to those described below under the heading

Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust.

The terms of any preferred stock we issue through this prospectus will be set forth in articles supplementary or an amendment to our articles of incorporation. We will file the articles supplementary or amendment as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus, or as an exhibit to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The description of preferred stock in any prospectus supplement will not describe all of the terms of the preferred stock in detail. You should read the applicable articles supplementary or amendment to our articles of incorporation for a complete description of all of the terms.

Rank. Unless we say otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the preferred stock offered through that supplement will, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, rank:

senior to all classes or series of our common stock, and to all other equity securities ranking junior to those shares of preferred stock;

Table of Contents

on a parity with our existing Series A preferred stock and Series B preferred stock and all equity securities we have issued, the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock; and

junior to all of our equity securities ranking senior to the shares of preferred stock.

The term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities.

Dividends. Holders of preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, out of our assets legally available for payment, cash dividends (or dividends in kind or in other property if expressly permitted and described in the applicable prospectus supplement) at such rates and on such dates as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each such dividend shall be payable to holders of record as they appear on our share transfer books on such record dates as shall be fixed by our Board of Directors. Dividends on any series of preferred stock may be cumulative or non-cumulative, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dividends, if cumulative, will be cumulative from and after the date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our Board of Directors fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the holders of such series of preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on such dividend payment date. We will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for such period, whether or not dividends on such series are declared payable on any future dividend payment date.

Redemption. If we provide for a redemption right in a prospectus supplement, the preferred stock offered through that supplement will be subject to mandatory redemption or redemption at our option, in whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in that supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of our preferred stock that is subject to mandatory redemption will specify:

the number of shares of such preferred stock that we will redeem in each year;

the year the redemption will commence;

the redemption price per share, together with an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends to the date of redemption; and

whether the redemption price may be payable in cash or other property.

If the redemption price for our preferred stock of any series is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of our capital stock, the terms of such preferred stock may provide that, if we have not issued capital stock or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, such preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into the applicable class or series of our capital stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We cannot redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire shares of a series of preferred stock unless:

for preferred stock with cumulative dividends, we have declared and paid, or declared and set apart a sum sufficient to pay, full cumulative dividends on the preferred stock through the then-current dividend period; or

for preferred stock lacking cumulative dividends, we have declared and paid, or declared and set apart a sum sufficient to pay, full dividends for the then-current dividend period.

The foregoing shall not prevent the purchase or acquisition of preferred stock of such series to preserve our REIT status or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding preferred stock of such series.

Table of Contents

If fewer than all outstanding shares of any series of our preferred stock are to be redeemed, we will determine the number of shares to be redeemed. We may redeem the shares on a *pro rata* basis from the holders of record of those shares in proportion to the number of those shares held or for which redemption is requested by the holder (with adjustments to avoid redemption of fractional shares) or by lot in a manner we determine.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of preferred stock of any series to be redeemed at the address shown on our share transfer books. Each notice shall state:

the redemption date;

the number of shares and the series of preferred stock to be redeemed;

the redemption price;

the place or places where certificates for such shares are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;

that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on such redemption date; and

the date upon which the holder's conversion rights, if any, as to such shares shall terminate.

If fewer than all outstanding shares of any series of our preferred stock are to be redeemed, the notice mailed to each holder shall also specify the number of shares of preferred stock to be redeemed from each holder. If notice of redemption of any preferred stock has been given and if we have set aside the funds necessary for such redemption in trust for the benefit of the holders of any of our preferred stock so called for redemption, then from and after the redemption date dividends will cease to accrue on the preferred stock, and all rights of the holders of the redeemable shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price.

Liquidation Preference. As to any preferred stock offered through this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement shall provide that, upon the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of those shares of preferred stock shall receive, before any distribution or payment shall be made to the holders of any other class or series of stock ranking junior to those shares of preferred stock in our distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and after payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities, out of our assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, liquidating distributions in the amount of any liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement), plus an amount, if applicable, equal to all distributions accrued and unpaid thereon (not including any accumulation in respect of unpaid distributions for prior distribution periods if those shares of preferred stock do not have a cumulative distribution). After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of those shares of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. In the event that, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the legally available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all of those outstanding shares of preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all of our shares of other classes or series of equity security ranking on a parity with those shares of preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then the holders of those shares of preferred stock and all other such classes or series of equity security shall share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If the liquidating distributions are made in full to all holders of preferred stock entitled to receive those distributions prior to any other classes or series of equity security ranking junior to the preferred stock upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then our remaining assets shall be distributed among the holders of those junior classes or series of equity stock, in each case according to their respective rights and preferences and their respective number of shares of stock.

Voting Rights. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of our preferred stock will not have any voting rights, except as may be required by applicable law or any applicable rules and regulations of any national securities exchange or automated quotation system where the preferred stock is listed or quoted.

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

Conversion Rights. The terms and conditions, if any, upon which shares of any class or series of preferred stock will be convertible into shares of our common stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include:

the number of shares of common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible;

Table of Contents

the conversion price (or manner of calculating the conversion price);

the conversion period;

provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or at our option;

the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price; and

provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of such preferred stock.

Restrictions on Ownership. As discussed below under the heading "Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws - Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer," for us to qualify as a REIT under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), not more than 50% in value of our outstanding equity securities may be owned, actually or constructively (based on attribution rules in the Code), by five or fewer individuals during the last half of a taxable year or a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. To assist us in meeting this requirement, we may take certain actions to limit the beneficial ownership, directly or indirectly, by a single person of our outstanding equity securities, including any of our shares of preferred stock. Therefore, the designating amendment for each series of preferred stock may contain provisions restricting the ownership and transfer of preferred stock.

Book-Entry Preferred Stock. The preferred stock of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such series. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such series.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. We will identify the transfer agent and registrar for any series of shares of preferred stock issued through this prospectus in a prospectus supplement. Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the transfer agent of our outstanding Series A preferred stock and Series B preferred stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following is a general description of the depositary shares that we may offer from time to time. The particular terms of the depositary shares being offered and the extent to which such general provisions may apply will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

General. We may issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest of a share of a particular series of a class of our preferred stock. We will deposit the shares of preferred stock of any series represented by depositary shares with a depository under a deposit agreement. We will identify the depository in a prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, if you own a depositary share, you will be entitled, in proportion to the fraction of the share of preferred stock represented by your depositary share, to all of the rights and preferences to which you would be entitled if you owned the share of preferred stock represented by your depositary share directly (including dividend, voting, redemption, subscription and liquidation rights). As of September 30, 2012, we had (i) 4,000,000 depositary shares, each representing 1/100th of a share of our Series A preferred stock, issued and outstanding and (ii) 3,173,115 depositary shares, each representing 1/100th of a share of our Series B preferred stock, issued and outstanding.

The depositary shares will be represented by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the applicable deposit agreement. Immediately following the issuance and delivery of our preferred stock to the depository, we will cause the depository to issue, on our behalf, the depositary receipts. Upon request, we will provide you with copies of the applicable form of deposit agreement and depositary receipt.

Dividends and Other Provisions. If you are a record holder (as defined below) of depositary receipts and we pay a cash dividend or other cash distribution with respect to the preferred stock represented by your depositary share, the depository will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions it receives in respect of the preferred stock represented by your depositary receipts in proportion to the numbers of depositary shares you owned on the record date for that dividend or distribution.

Table of Contents

If we make a distribution in a form other than cash, the depositary will distribute the property it receives to you and all other record holders of depositary receipts in an equitable manner, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to do so. If the depositary decides it cannot feasibly distribute the property, it may sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to you and the other record holders. The amount the depositary distributes in any of the foregoing cases may be reduced by any amounts that we or the depositary is required to withhold on account of taxes.

A record holder is a person who holds depositary receipts on the record date for any dividend, distribution or other action. The record date for depositary shares will be the same as the record date for the preferred stock represented by those depositary receipts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock. If you surrender your depositary receipts, the depositary will be required to deliver certificates to you evidencing the number of shares of preferred stock represented by those receipts (but only in whole shares). If you deliver depositary receipts representing a number of depositary shares that is greater than the number of whole shares to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to you at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the fractional shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares. If we redeem a series of shares of preferred stock represented by depositary receipts, the depositary will redeem depositary shares from the proceeds it receives after redemption of the preferred stock. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to that series of shares of preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary will select shares to be redeemed by lot, pro rata or by any other equitable method it may determine. After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. All rights of the holders of those depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the redemption price that the holders of the depositary shares were entitled to receive upon redemption. Payments will be made when holders surrender their depositary receipts to the depositary.

Voting the Preferred Stock. When the depositary receives notice of any meeting at which the holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail information contained in the notice to you as a record holder of the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock. As a record holder of the depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock), you will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to how you would like your votes to be exercised. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock represented by your depositary shares in accordance with your instructions. We will agree to take all reasonable action that the depositary may deem necessary to enable the depositary to do this. If you do not send specific instructions the depositary will not vote the preferred stock represented by your depositary shares.

Liquidation Preference. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, you will be entitled, as a record holder of depositary shares, to the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each applicable share of preferred stock, as has been set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Conversion of Preferred Stock. Our depositary shares, as such, are not convertible into shares of our common stock or any of our other securities or property. Nevertheless, if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the depositary receipts may be surrendered by their holders to the depositary with written instructions to the depositary to instruct us to cause conversion of the shares of represented preferred stock into whole shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, and we will agree that upon receipt of such instructions and any amounts payable, to convert the depositary shares utilizing the same procedures as those provided for delivery of shares of preferred stock to effect such conversion. If the depositary shares are to be converted in part only, one or more new depositary receipts will be issued for any depositary shares not to be converted. No fractional shares of common stock will be issued upon conversion, and if such conversion will result in a fractional share being issued, we will pay an amount in cash equal to the value of the fractional interest based upon the closing price of the common stock on the last business day prior to the conversion.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement. We and the depositary may amend the form of depositary receipt and any provision of the deposit agreement at any time. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters your rights as a holder of depositary shares will not be effective unless the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding approve the amendment. The deposit agreement will terminate only if:

we redeem all outstanding depositary shares; or

we make a final distribution in respect of the related preferred stock to which the depositary shares and agreement relate, including in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up and the distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary

shares.

Table of Contents

Resignation and Removal of Depositary. The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us of its election to do so. Additionally, we may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect when we appoint a successor depositary and the successor accepts the appointment. We must appoint a successor depositary within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal. A successor depositary must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the U.S. and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million.

Charges of Depositary. We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and issuance of depositary receipts, all withdrawals of preferred stock by owners of the depositary shares and any redemption of the preferred stock. You will pay other transfer and other taxes, governmental charges and other charges expressly provided for in the deposit agreement.

Miscellaneous. The depositary will forward to you all notices, reports and communications, including proxy soliciting material, from us that we are required, or otherwise determine, to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable under the deposit agreement to you other than for the depositary's gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND

OUR ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

The following summary of certain provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and our articles of incorporation and bylaws is not complete. You should read the Maryland General Corporation Law and our articles of incorporation and bylaws for more complete information. The business combination provisions and the control share acquisition provisions of Maryland law, both of which are discussed below, could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in our control. Also, the removal of directors provisions and the advance notice provisions of the bylaws could have the effect of delaying or preventing a transaction or a change in our control. These provisions could have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us and of increasing the difficulty of consummating any such offer, even if the offer contains a premium price for holders of our equity stock or otherwise benefits stockholders.

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer. Restrictions on ownership and transfer of shares are important to ensure that we meet certain conditions under the Code to qualify as a REIT. For example, the Code contains the following requirements.

No more than 50% in value of a REIT's stock may be owned, actually or constructively (based on attribution rules in the Code), by five or fewer individuals during the last half of a taxable year or a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Under the Code, individuals include certain tax-exempt entities, except that qualified domestic pension funds are not generally treated as individuals.

If a REIT, or an owner of 10% or more of a REIT, is treated as owning 10% or more of a tenant of the REIT's property, the rent received by the REIT from the tenant will not be qualifying income for purposes of the REIT gross income tests of the Code.

A REIT's stock or beneficial interests must be owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year.

In order to maintain our qualification as a REIT, our articles of incorporation, subject to certain exceptions described below, provides that no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 2.5% in value of our issued and outstanding equity securities with the exception of members of The Saul Organization, who are restricted to 39.9% in value of our issued and outstanding equity securities. In this prospectus, the term "ownership limitation" is used to describe this provision of our articles of incorporation.

As of September 30, 2012, Mr. Saul II and members of The Saul Organization had the potential to exercise control over 8,577,008 shares of our common stock representing 43.8% of our issued and outstanding shares of common stock. Mr. Saul II and members of The Saul Organization

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

also beneficially owned, as of September 30, 2012, 6,914,229 units of the Partnership. In general,

Table of Contents

these units are convertible into shares of our common stock on a one-for-one basis. The ownership limitation set forth in our articles of incorporation is 39.9% in value of our issued and outstanding equity securities (which includes both common and preferred stock). As of September 30, 2012, Mr. Saul II and members of The Saul Organization owned common stock representing approximately 36.1% in value of all our issued and outstanding equity securities. Members of the Saul Organization are permitted under our articles of incorporation to convert Partnership units into shares of common stock or acquire additional shares of common stock until The Saul Organization's actual ownership of common stock reaches 39.9% in value of our equity securities. As of September 30, 2012, 1,505,000 of the 6,914,229 units of the Partnership would have been permitted to convert into additional shares of common stock, and would have resulted in Mr. Saul II and members of The Saul Organization owning common stock representing approximately 39.9% in value of all our issued and outstanding equity securities.

Any transfer of shares will be null and void, and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares if the transfer:

results in any person owning, directly or indirectly, shares in excess of the ownership limitation;

results in the shares being owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined without reference to any rules of attribution);

results in our being closely held (within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code); or

otherwise results in our failure to qualify as a REIT.

If a stockholder owns more than 1.9% of the value of our outstanding equity stock, then the stockholder must notify us of its share ownership by January 31 of each year.

The ownership limitation generally does not apply to the acquisition of stock by an underwriter that participates in a public offering of such stock. In addition, the Board of Directors may waive these restrictions on a case-by-case basis. The Board has authorized the Company to grant waivers to look-through entities, such as mutual funds, in which shares of equity stock owned by the entity are treated as owned proportionally by individuals who are the beneficial owners of the entity. Even though these entities may own stock in excess of the 2.5% ownership limit, no individual beneficially or constructively would own more than 2.5%. The Board of Directors has agreed to waive the ownership limit with respect to certain mutual funds and similar investors. In addition, the Board of Directors has agreed to waive the ownership limit with respect to certain bank pledgees of shares of our common stock and units issued by the Operating Partnership and held by members of The Saul Organization.

The ownership limitation could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in our control that might involve a premium price for our stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders. All certificates representing shares of stock will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Automatic Transfer of Stock to Trust. With certain exceptions described below, if any purported transfer of shares would violate any of the restrictions described in the immediately preceding paragraph, then the transfer will be null and void, and those shares will be designated as excess stock and transferred automatically to a trust. The transfer to the trust is effective as of the end of the business day next preceding the date of the purported transfer of such shares. The record holder of the shares that are designated as excess stock must deliver those shares to us for registration in the name of the trust. We will act as trustee of the trust. The beneficiary of the trust will be the persons to whom an interest in the excess stock is eventually transferred as provided below.

Any shares of excess stock remain issued and outstanding shares of stock. From and after the purported transfer resulting in excess stock, the record holder shall not be entitled to any dividends or distributions (except upon liquidation) or voting right, except as required by law, but shall be entitled to the right to payment of the purchase price of the shares. Any dividend or distribution paid to a record holder on excess stock shall be repaid to us upon demand. Subject to the ownership limitation, the excess stock may be retransferred by the record holder to any person if the excess stock will not be excess stock in the hands of the person at a price not to exceed:

the price paid by the record holder; or

if no consideration was paid, fair market value, at which point the excess stock will automatically be exchanged for the equity stock to which the excess stock was attributable.

Table of Contents

In addition, the excess stock will be subject to repurchase by us at our election for a period of 90 days after the date of the purported transfer which resulted in such excess stock at a price per share equal to the lesser of (1) the price per share in the transaction that created the excess stock or (2) the fair market value of such shares on the date that we, or our designee, determine to exercise the repurchase right.

Any person who acquires or attempts to acquire common stock or preferred stock which would be null and void under the restrictions described above, or any person who owned shares of common stock or preferred stock that were transferred to a trust, must (1) give us immediate written notice of such event and (2) provide us such other information as requested in order to determine the effect, if any, of such transfer on our status as a REIT.

Business Combinations. The Maryland General Corporation Law prohibits us from entering into business combinations and other corporate transactions unless special actions are taken. The business combinations that require these special actions include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in certain circumstances, an asset transfer or issuance of equity securities when the combination is between us and an interested stockholder (as defined below). An interested stockholder is:

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our shares; or

any of our affiliates which beneficially owned 10% or more of the voting power of our shares within two years prior to the date in question.

We may not engage in a business combination with an interested stockholder or any of its affiliates for five years after the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. We may engage in business combinations with an interested stockholder if at least five years have passed since the person became an interested stockholder, but only if the transaction is:

recommended by our Board of Directors; and

approved by at least

80% of our outstanding shares entitled to vote; and

two-thirds of our outstanding shares entitled to vote that are not held by the interested stockholder.

Stockholder approval will not be required if our stockholders receive a minimum price (as defined in the statute) for their shares and our stockholders receive cash or the same form of consideration as the interested stockholder paid for its shares.

This prohibition does not apply to business combinations involving us that are exempted by the Board of Directors before the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Our articles of incorporation have exempted from this provision any business combination with a member of The Saul Organization.

Control Share Acquisitions. The Maryland General Corporation Law provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights unless two-thirds of the stockholders (excluding shares owned by the acquirer, and by the officers and directors who are employees of the Maryland corporation) approve their voting rights.

Control Shares are shares that, if added with all other shares previously acquired, would entitle that person to vote, in electing the directors

10% or more but less than one-third of such shares;

one-third or more but less than a majority of such shares; or

a majority of the outstanding shares.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is entitled to vote with stockholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

Table of Contents

If this provision becomes applicable to us, a person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition could, under certain circumstances, compel our Board of Directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to consider the voting rights of the control shares. We could also present the question at any stockholders meeting on our own.

If this provision becomes applicable to us, subject to certain conditions and limitations, we would be able to redeem any or all control shares. If voting rights for control shares were approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquirer were entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders could exercise appraisal rights and exchange their shares for a fair value as defined by statute.

Our articles of incorporation state that the Maryland control share acquisition law will not apply to any acquisition of our capital stock by the following persons:

members of The Saul Organization;

directors, officers and employees of us and the Partnership; and

any other persons authorized by the Board of Directors.

Limitation of Liability of Directors and Officers. Our articles of incorporation provide that, to the fullest extent that limitations on the liability of directors and officers are permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, no director or officer shall be liable to us or our stockholders for money damages. The Maryland General Corporation Law provides that we may restrict or limit the liability of directors or officers for money damages except

to the extent anyone actually received an improper benefit or profit in money property or services; or

a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to the person is entered in a proceeding based on a finding that the person's action was material to the cause of action adjudicated and the action or failure to act was the result of bad faith or active and deliberate dishonesty.

Indemnification of Directors and Officers. Our articles and bylaws require us to indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by and under the applicable provisions of Maryland General Corporation Law any person who is or was, or who agrees to become, one of our directors or officers or, while one of our directors, is or was serving or agrees to serve, as a director, officer, partner, joint venturer, employee or trustee of another entity, who, by reason of his or her status or service as such was, or is threatened to be made a party, or otherwise involved in any proceeding. The indemnification extends to all losses suffered and all expenses actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding. The Maryland General Corporation Law provides that we may indemnify directors and officers unless

the director actually received an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services;

the act or omission of the director was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; or

in a criminal proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws require, as a condition to advancing expenses, (1) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by us and (2) a written affirmation to repay the amount paid by us if it is determined that the director or officer was not entitled to indemnification.

Edgar Filing: SAUL CENTERS INC - Form S-3

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws also provide that:

we may, but are not required to, provide indemnification, payment or reimbursement of expenses to any of our employees or agents in such capacity or any person who is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, partner, joint venturer, employee, trustee or agent of another corporation or entity;

Table of Contents

the Board of Directors may authorize management to act on our behalf in matters relating to indemnification, subject to any limitations that may be imposed by the Board of Directors and to the requirements of applicable law;

indemnification and payment or reimbursement of advances as may be permitted or required pursuant to our bylaws shall be furnished in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Maryland General Corporation Law; and

we may provide such other further indemnification or provision for the payment or advancement of expenses as may be permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law for directors of Maryland corporations.

Duties of Directors. Under Maryland law, there is a presumption that the act of a director satisfies the required standard of care. An act of a director relating to or affecting an acquisition or a potential acquisition of control is not subject under Maryland law to a higher duty or greater scrutiny than is applied to any other act of a director. This provision does not impose an enhanced level of scrutiny when a board implements anti-takeover measures in a change of control context, and shifts the burden of proof for demonstrating that the defensive mechanism adopted by a board is reasonable in relation to the threat posed to the board.

Number of Directors; Classified Board. The number of directors may be increased or decreased pursuant to the bylaws, provided that the total number of directors may not be less than 3 or more than 15. Under Maryland law and our articles of incorporation, directors, subject to the rights of holders of any shares of preferred stock, are elected in three classes for staggered, three-year terms.

Removal of Directors. Under the articles of incorporation, and subject to the rights of any holders of preferred stock, our stockholders may remove a director only with cause upon the affirmative vote of 75% of the Board of Directors or 75% of the number of shares outstanding and entitled to vote on that matter.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors. The bylaws provide that, subject to the rights of any holders of preferred stock, any vacancy on the Board of Directors, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors, may be filled by vote of a majority of the remaining directors. Each director so elected shall serve for the unexpired term of the director he is replacing.

Meetings of Stockholders. Our bylaws provide for an annual meeting of stockholders, to be held in April, to elect individuals to the Board of Directors for that class of directors then standing for election and transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. Special meetings of stockholders may be called by our Chairman of the Board, President or by a majority of the Board of Directors, and shall be called at the request in writing of the holders of 25% of all votes entitled to be cast at the meeting.

Our bylaws provide that any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of stockholders may be taken without a meeting, if all of the shares entitled to vote on the matter consent to the action in writing, the written consents are filed with the records of the meetings of stockholders and each stockholder executed a written waiver of any right to dissent.

Advance Notice for Stockholder Nominations and Stockholder New Business Proposals. Our bylaws require advance written notice for stockholders to nominate a director or bring other business before a meeting of stockholders. For an annual meeting, to nominate a director or bring other business before a meeting of stockholders, a stockholder must deliver notice to our Secretary not later than the close of business on the 60th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. If the date of the annual meeting is advanced by more than 30 days or delayed by more than 60 days from the anniversary date, however, notice must be timely delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 90th day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 60th day prior to the annual meeting or the 10th day following the date on which public announcement is first made of the annual meeting.

For a special meeting, to nominate a director, a stockholder must deliver notice to our Secretary not earlier than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the special meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 70th day prior to the special meeting or the 10th day following the date on which public announcement is first made of the special meeting. Nominations for elections to the Board of Directors at a special meeting may be made by stockholders only if the Board of Directors has determined that directors shall be elected at the special meeting.

The postponement or adjournment of an annual or special meeting to a later date or time shall not commence any new time periods for the giving of notice as described above. Our bylaws contain detailed requirements for the contents of stockholder notices of director nominations and new business proposals.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered by this prospectus in one or more of the following ways from time to time: (1) through underwriters or dealers; (2) through agents; (3) in at the market offerings to or through a market maker, or into an existing trading market or securities exchange or otherwise; (4) directly to purchasers; or (5) through a combination of any of these methods of sale. Any such underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the offered securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we use underwriters in an offering, we will execute an underwriting agreement with such underwriters and will specify the name of each underwriter and the terms of the transaction (including any underwriting discounts and other terms constituting compensation of the underwriters and any dealers) in a prospectus supplement. If we use an underwriting syndicate, the managing underwriter(s) will be specified on the cover of the prospectus supplement. If we use underwriters for a sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own accounts. Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the offered securities if any are purchased.

Underwriters may offer and sell our securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, related to the prevailing market prices at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. We also may, from time to time, authorize underwriters acting as our agents to offer and sell our securities upon the terms and conditions set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of our securities, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of our securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell our securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

Any underwriting compensation we pay to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of our securities and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the offered securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the our securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933. The terms of any indemnification provisions will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize dealers acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase our securities from us at the public offering price set forth in such prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in such prospectus supplement. Each contract will be for an amount not less than, and the aggregate principal amount of securities sold pursuant to contracts shall be not less or more than, the respective amounts stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Institutions with whom contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions, and other institutions, but will in all cases be subject to our approval. Contracts will not be subject to any conditions except (i) the purchase by an institution of the offered securities covered by its contracts shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which such institution is subject and (ii) if the offered securities are being sold to underwriters, we shall have sold to such underwriters the total principal amount of our securities less the principal amount thereof covered by contracts.

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with and perform services for us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any such securities.

If underwriters or dealers are used in the sale, until the distribution of the securities is completed, SEC rules may limit the ability of any such underwriters and selling group members to bid for and purchase the securities. As an exception to these rules, representatives of any underwriters are permitted to engage in certain transactions that stabilize the price of the securities. Such transactions may consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities. If the underwriters create a short position in the securities in connection with the offerings (in other words, if they sell more securities than are set forth on the cover page of the prospectus supplement) the representatives of the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing securities in the open market. The representatives of the underwriters

Table of Contents

may also elect to reduce any short position by exercising all or part of any over-allotment option described in the prospectus supplement. The representatives of the underwriters may also impose a penalty bid on certain underwriters and selling group members. This means that if the representatives purchase securities in the open market to reduce the underwriters' short position or to stabilize the price of the securities, they may reclaim the amount of the selling concession from the underwriters and selling group members who sold those shares as part of the offering. In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. The imposition of a penalty bid might also have an effect on the price of the securities to the extent that it discourages resales of the securities. We make no representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the securities. In addition, the representatives of any underwriters may determine not to engage in such transactions or that such transactions, once commenced, may be discontinued without notice.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of our securities will be passed upon for us by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, a limited liability partnership.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Saul Centers, Inc., appearing in Saul Centers, Inc.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2011 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Saul Centers, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we have filed at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. Our filings are available to the public at the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol BFS. You may inspect our reports, proxy statements and other information at the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement (of which this prospectus is a part) on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to our securities. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules thereto, certain parts of which are omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

We are incorporating by reference the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information we incorporate by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information in this prospectus. We hereby incorporate by reference:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on March 12, 2012;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012, filed with the SEC on May 3, 2012, August 6, 2012 and November 2, 2012, respectively;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 8, 2012, May 14, 2012, May 24, 2012, September 4, 2012, September 25, 2012, and December 11, 2012; and

any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act File No. 001-12254), from the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of this registration statement, and any filings made from the date of this prospectus until we sell all of the securities under this prospectus as

supplemented.

Table of Contents

We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K.

Copies of these filings are available at no cost on our website, *www.saulcenters.com*. Amendments to these filings will be posted to our website as soon as reasonably practical after filing with the SEC. In addition, you may request a copy of these filings and any amendments thereto at no cost, by writing or telephoning us. Those copies will not include exhibits to those documents unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents or unless you specifically request them. You may also request copies of any exhibits to the registration statement. Please direct your request to:

Mr. Scott V Schneider

Saul Centers, Inc.

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1500

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

(301) 986-6200

Our prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. We have omitted certain parts of the registration statement in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement, including its exhibits and schedules. Statements contained in our prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement about the provisions or contents of any contract, agreement or any other document referred to are not necessarily complete. Please refer to the actual exhibit for a more complete description of the matters involved. You may get copies of the exhibits by contacting the person named above.

You should rely only on the information in our prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents that are incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not offering these securities in any state where the offer is prohibited by law. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any incorporated document is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table itemizes the expenses incurred, or to be incurred, by us in connection with the registration and issuance of the securities being registered hereunder. As indicated below, all amounts shown are estimates except for the SEC registration fee.

Registration Fee SEC	\$ 27,280
Printing and Mailing Costs	75,000*
Accounting Fees and Expenses	125,000*
Legal Fees and Expenses	175,000*
Miscellaneous	50,000*
Total	\$ 452,280*

* Estimated.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Our articles and bylaws require us to indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by and under the applicable provisions of Maryland General Corporation Law any person who is or was, or who agrees to become, one of our directors or officers or, while one of our directors, is or was serving or agrees to serve, as a director, officer, partner, joint venturer, employee or trustee of another entity, who, by reason of his or her status or service as such was, or is threatened to be made a party, or otherwise involved in any proceeding. The indemnification extends to all losses suffered and all expenses actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding. The Maryland General Corporation Law provides that we may indemnify directors and officers unless (i) the director actually received an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services; (ii) the act or omission of the director was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; or (iii) in a criminal proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws require, as a condition to advancing expenses, (i) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by us and (ii) a written affirmation to repay the amount paid by us if it is determined that the director or officer was not entitled to indemnification.

Our officers and directors are also indemnified pursuant to the Partnership's partnership agreement. We have also purchased an insurance policy which purports to insure our officers and directors against certain liabilities incurred by them in the discharge of their functions as such officers and directors, except for liabilities resulting from their own malfeasance.

Table of Contents

Item 16. Exhibits

Number	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting or Purchase Agreement for Common Stock, Preferred Stock or Depositary Shares*
4.1	First Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Saul Centers, Inc. filed with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation on August 23, 1994 and filed as Exhibit 3.(a) of the 1993 Annual Report of the Company on Form 10-K are hereby incorporated by reference. Articles of Amendment to the First Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Saul Centers, Inc., filed with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation on May 28, 2004 and filed as Exhibit 3.(a) of the June 30, 2004 Quarterly Report of the Company are hereby incorporated by reference. Articles of Amendment to the First Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Saul Centers, Inc., filed with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation on May 26, 2006 and filed as Exhibit 3.(a) of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 30, 2006 are hereby incorporated by reference.
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Saul Centers, Inc. as in effect at and after August 24, 1993 and as of August 26, 1993 and filed as Exhibit 3.(b) of the 1993 Annual Report of the Company on Form 10-K are hereby incorporated by reference. Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Bylaws of Saul Centers, Inc. adopted November 29, 2007 and filed as Exhibit 3(b) of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 3, 2007 is hereby incorporated by reference.
4.3	Articles Supplementary to First Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company, dated October 30, 2003, filed as Exhibit 2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-A dated October 31, 2003, is hereby incorporated by reference.
4.4	Articles Supplementary to First Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company, as amended, dated March 26, 2008, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed March 27, 2008, is hereby incorporated by reference.
4.5	Form specimen of certificate representing preferred stock*
4.6	Form specimen of depositary receipt representing depositary shares*
4.7	Form of Deposit Agreement (previously filed as Exhibit 4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated October 31, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference)
5.1	Opinion of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP regarding the validity of the securities being registered

Table of Contents

12.1	Statement Regarding Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends
23.1	Consent of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP (included as part of Exhibit 5.1)
23.2	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
24.1	Powers of Attorney (contained on the signature page hereto)

* To be filed by amendment or incorporated by reference in connection with the offering of the offered securities

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any acts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement; notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) herein do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the undersigned registrant(s) pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

Table of Contents

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(6) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(b) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel it has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the County of Montgomery, State of Maryland, on December 20, 2012.

SAUL CENTERS, INC.

By: /s/ B. Francis Saul II
B. Francis Saul II

Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints each of B. Francis Saul II, Thomas H. McCormick and Scott V. Schneider as his attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution for him in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments or post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith or in connection with the registration of the securities under the Securities act of 1933 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto such attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary in connection with such matters and hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact and agent or his substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated.

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
/s/ B. Francis Saul II B. Francis Saul II	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer)	December 20, 2012
/s/ Philip D. Caraci Philip D. Caraci	Vice Chairman	December 20, 2012
/s/ Thomas H. McCormick Thomas H. McCormick	President and Director	December 20, 2012
/s/ Scott V. Schneider Scott V. Schneider	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary (principal financial officer)	December 20, 2012
/s/ Joel S. Friedman Joel A. Friedman	Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (principal accounting officer)	December 20, 2012
/s/ John E. Chapoton John E. Chapoton	Director	December 20, 2012
/s/ George P. Clancy George P. Clancy	Director	December 20, 2012
/s/ Gilbert M. Grosvenor Gilbert M. Grosvenor	Director	December 20, 2012
/s/ Philip C. Jackson, Jr. Philip C. Jackson, Jr.	Director	December 20, 2012

Table of Contents

/s/ Paul X. Kelley Director December 20, 2012

General Paul X. Kelley USMC (Ret.)

/s/ Charles R. Longworth Director December 20, 2012

Charles R. Longworth

/s/ Patrick F. Noonan Director December 20, 2012

Patrick F. Noonan

/s/ H. Gregory Platts Director December 20, 2012

H. Gregory Platts

/s/ Mark Sullivan III Director December 20, 2012

Mark Sullivan III

/s/ James W. Symington Director December 20, 2012

James W. Symington

/s/ John R. Whitmore Director December 20, 2012

John R. Whitmore