

The Fresno Bee



By Bethany Clough

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The new Walmart in central Fresno is opening later than expected, but is already hiring for 300 jobs.

The store at the former Mervyns at Blackstone and Ashlan avenues will open early next year, according to Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The retail giant had announced in February that the store would open last summer.

The company discovered “some unforeseen issues in the construction process, mostly related to the fact that the building had been vacant for more than five years,” said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Delia Garcia.



A Walmart truck idles in the back of the Clovis store on Shaw Ave. on Oct. 17, 2014.
MARK CROSSE — Fresno Bee Staff Photo Buy Photo

The 107,000-square-foot store is in the process of being converted to a supercenter that includes a grocery store and other departments.

Problems with the floor and beams, stemming in part from the lack of air conditioning and temperature fluctuations while it was empty, meant workers had to make structural repairs.

Workers also needed to add extra electrical and heating, venting and air conditioning systems to support the coolers and freezers in the grocery department.

The store has already begun accepting applications at a hiring center nearby at 3786 N. Blackstone Ave. near Dakota Avenue. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications can also be done online at careers.walmart.com.

Wal-Mart also has a Veterans Welcome Home Commitment program in which the company offers a job to any qualified veteran who has been honorably discharged within the last 12 months. More information is available online at walmartcareerswithamission.com.

The store is looking to fill full- and part-time positions, but the majority are full time, Garcia said. Pay varies depending upon experience and is “competitive,” she said. The average pay for full-time Walmart employees in California is \$13.24, she said.

The store also offers 401(k) retirement accounts with Wal-Mart matching contributions up to 6% of pay. Employees working at least 30 hours a week are eligible for health insurance that starts at \$21 per pay period.

Most employees will begin work in November to prepare the store for its grand opening.

http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/10/24/4196954_central-fresno-walmart-opening.html?rh=1