



Walmart putting two Neighborhood Markets in Vacaville

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Need to run to the grocery store but there's none in your neighborhood?

Take a second look -- yours might be one of two Vacaville locations slated to get a Walmart Neighborhood Market.

Aside from the "full-size" grocery offerings at the Wal-Mart on Helen Power Drive, the smaller-scaled Neighborhood Markets are scheduled to go into the former Food Maxx in the Golden Hills Plaza on Alamo Drive and the old Rite-Aid building at Nut Tree and Elmira roads.

Both sites have been vacant for some time and, once minor renovations are done, will boast new life.

Officials say that means more jobs and growth for the local economy.

Rachel Wall, a spokeswoman for Walmart, said the smaller stores are not a new venture. They've been around since 1998, with 230 nationwide. There are 16 stores in California, the first having opened in Huntington Beach last July.

Two opening in Vacaville isn't unusual, she pointed out.

"We know that Vacaville residents are already shopping at Wal-Mart (on Helen Power Drive) and employees are already living in Vacaville," Wall said. "We're helping to meet the demand."

She described the markets as full of fresh produce, dry goods, meats, poultry, dairy, pet supplies and the like, complete with a pharmacy.

Wall said officials aren't worried about neighboring grocers possibly hurting business.

"We offer people a choice, an option for where they shop," she said. "We remain in competition to have everyday low prices."

An estimated 65 people are needed to operate each store, with 130 full and part-time positions being offered.

"There will be all kinds of positions," she said. "Supervisors, shift managers, department supervisors, grocery and sales associates, pharmacy technicians, cashiers and maintenance."

Expect competitive wages (\$12.93 hourly average for full-timers) and benefits, Wall said.

"Five million people applied last year across the nation," she added. "We have great retention."

The Alamo Drive store is set to open in July, with a hiring center recruiting in June.

The Nut Tree store is set for a fall opening and recruiting in July.

The renovations are each anticipated to support about 50 contract construction jobs for the next six to seven months.

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