



May 1, 2013

Wal-Mart manager defends market

In response to the letter to the Daily Democrat dated April 24, 2013, "Wal-Mart market will cost Woodland residents," we'd like to share the facts. The Woodland Neighborhood Markets will create new, quality jobs and offer Woodland families a choice for fresh, healthy and affordable products all at our Every Day Low Prices.

Wal-Mart has been part of Woodland since 1997 and our customers recognize that we have made efforts in recent years to be an even better company by leading on issues that are important to them like job opportunity, sustainability, hunger and nutrition.

First Lady Michelle Obama, who has partnered with Wal-Mart as part of her "Let's Move" campaign, commended Wal-Mart for bringing healthy, affordable food into many communities across the United States.

In addition to saving people money on everyday items and bringing business back to two vacant locations, the two stores will bring about 140 new jobs and career opportunities to Woodland. We are proud of our jobs - they are some of the best in retail. Our wages and benefits typically meet or exceed those offered by a majority of our competitors and our average, hourly full-time wage in California is \$12.93. We offer eligible full- and part-time Associates a variety of healthcare plans including a plan that starts at \$17 per pay period; quarterly bonus based on store performance; a 401K plan with a company match; and a merchandise discount card.

At Wal-Mart, you can climb the ladder from a stocker to a department manager to a store manager and beyond. About 75 percent of our store management started as hourly associates, and they earn between \$50,000 and \$170,000 a year.

We're proud of the contributions we make in Woodland and throughout California -- from creating jobs and generating tax revenue to helping customers save and contributing to local non-profits like the Food Bank of Yolo County and others - and we look forward to serving Woodland for years to come.

MIKE ZOBEL, market manager for Wal-Mart, Roseville

http://www.dailydemocrat.com/letters/ci_23145184/wal-mart-manager-defends-market