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## Job seekers file applications as Walmart readies Neighborhood Market for July opening

*Store manager, others on scene to interview for 65 positions at ne*

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Applicants were waiting in line as Walmart opened a temporary hiring center this week to fill about 65 full- and part-time positions at its new store in the Meadow Plaza shopping center on Santa Rita Road near West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton.

The 34,000-square-foot store will open in mid-July in the building once occupied by Nob Hill supermarket, a unit of Raley's which was closed three years ago. Meadow Plaza is connected to Santa Rita Square, which is at the corner of Santa Rita and West Las Positas.

Store manager Alton Wheeler opened the hiring center and other Walmart representatives joined him in greeting applicants. They included store managers from other Neighborhood Markets already open in San Ramon, Vacaville and south San Jose.

After completing applications on computers at the center, those applying for jobs will be notified if their bids are accepted. Some will be asked to start within a month for company training and then will start working at the new grocery store once renovations are completed.

Wheeler said he anticipates hiring people across a broad range of skill levels and compensation for the new store, but that most essential are prospective associates - as Walmart employees are called - who have "people skills and know that our customers always come first."

"We are excited to add the first Walmart Neighborhood Market to Pleasanton and bring good jobs with great career opportunities to the area," he added.

He said that Walmart provides a benefits program to eligible full- and part-time associates. For example, it provides a variety of affordable health and well-being benefits including health-care coverage with no lifetime maximum.

The average wage for full-time hourly associates in California is \$12.93 per hour. Walmart also offers eligible associates matching 401(k) contributions of up to 6% of their pay, discounts on general merchandise, an Associate Stock Purchase Program and company-paid life insurance. Additionally, eligible associates receive a quarterly incentive based on store performance.

Wheeler, who has been with Walmart for 12 years, said the Neighborhood Markets are considered a small format store and designed for customer convenience. The Pleasanton stores

will offer a full supermarket line of fresh produce and groceries, as well as household products, pet supplies and pharmacy services.

Besides bringing renewed economic activity to Meadow Plaza, Walmart's increased presence in Pleasanton, where a full service regular Walmart store is just a mile away, could add to the company's community involvement here.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation announced \$958.9 million in cash and in-kind contributions around the globe during the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2012. The company's U.S. giving grew nearly 20%, largely due to increased donations of produce, meats, poultry and other nutritious food to local food banks from Walmart stores, Sam's Club locations and distribution centers.

In the U.S., Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave \$872.7 million in cash and in-kind gifts in the fiscal year ending 2012, including 28,980,368 in cash and in-kind donations in California.

In the Pleasanton area, those benefiting from Walmart contributions included Tri-Valley Haven Food Bank, Open Heart Kitchen, Alameda County Food Bank, Valley Humane Society, Foothill High School and Alisal, Fairlands and Donlon elementary schools.

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