

# TRI-VALLEY TIMES

## **Pleasanton: Walmart readies Neighborhood Market for July opening**

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PLEASANTON -- Walmart is set to open its Neighborhood Market grocery store this July in Pleasanton -- the company's third in the Bay Area -- a little more than a year after its delayed approval by the City Council.

The retail giant is in the process of hiring about 65 full- and part-time employees to work at the new store, which is moving into the former Nob Hill Foods supermarket location in the Meadow Plaza shopping center on Santa Rita Road.

A temporary hiring center opened April 30 at 3120 Santa Rita Road, Suite F, and will remain open for the next several weeks, or until all the positions are filled. According to Walmart spokeswoman Rachel Wall, more than 250 people had submitted applications since the center opened. The employees will start in late May to set up for the store's grand opening.

Wall said the 33,160-square-foot Neighborhood Market would be a full-service supermarket with a broad assortment of produce, meat and dairy products, a pharmacy and a small general merchandise and pet food section.

"It gives folks a choice when it comes to purchasing everyday grocery items for their families," she said. "We already have Walmart customers in the area, and this offers them a small-format, convenient access to our grocery products."

Walmart applied for the store location in 2011. The proposal drew opposition from a few community members, union representatives and former City Councilman Matt Sullivan, who requested a hearing to appeal the planning commission's approval of the project and delayed the final council vote.

Large crowds attended two council hearings on the proposal in May 2012, but most neighbors welcomed the addition of a grocery store to the area, which had been left without one since Nob Hill closed in 2010. The City Council denied the appeal and voted 4-1 to approve the project.

Walmart has about 250 Neighborhood Markets nationwide and 22 in California, according to Wall. The Pleasanton location is the second in the Tri-Valley; the first opened in San Ramon in September. Another opened in San Jose.

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