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By: Jay Bhatia

Walmart celebrates grand opening of new neighborhood market



Eager shoppers stood outside the Turlock Neighborhood Walmart Market this morning as the new grocery store celebrated its official grand opening.

With a smile brimming on his face, store manager Everton Lira welcomed the applauding community, council members and government officials to celebrate the opening of the new store.

“I couldn't be more proud to see the teamwork and dedication that everyone has had in order to make this store happen,” said Lira. “We're very excited to here.”

The grand opening event also brought some federal officials, including Congressman Jeff Denham (R-Turlock). After presenting store manager Lira with an official congressional award, Denham praised the company for its entrepreneurship and bringing jobs to the local community.

“We’re doing more and more ribbon cuttings throughout the Valley,” said Denham. “It’s exciting to see not only older buildings being revitalized, but new jobs being created at the same time.”

According to store management, the new neighborhood market has created 95 new jobs in the Turlock.

After the speakers, Lira and other Walmart management went on to present \$8,000 in grants from the Walmart Foundation to local community groups. These groups included the Haven Women’s Center of Stanislaus County, Turlock Police Activities League, Turlock Education Foundation, United Samaritans Foundation, City of Turlock Parks, Recreation & Facilities and Connecting Point Church of the Nazarene

Once the doors opened, the hundreds of shoppers flooded into the store as associates and vendors offered up smiles, tours and even food samples of the store’s new products.

Princess Burke, one of the shoppers who partook in the morning’s festivities, stated the store provided a little bit of everything.

“I’ve been comparing this with other stores in Turlock and they have everything you need right here,” said Burke.

Richard Lucas, another shopper who decided to buy his groceries at the new market stated that this particular market would definitely become his go to stop when he’s in town.

“We do a lot of shopping here in town, so we really, really like it,” said Lucas. “They’ve got a lot of stuff to give you.”

A packed parking lot was indicative of the already apparent popularity of the store as Lira stated the response from the community has been nothing short of incredible.

“Everything has been fantastic,” he said.

The new 60,000 square foot grocery store will come with a full pharmacy, a variety of local produce, devoted health, beauty and infant sections, along with an assortment of grocery and house wares that can be found in a typical grocery store.

The store is located on 2480 Geer Road and will be open from 6 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

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