

MILPITAS POST



Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves, right, and Milpitas Walmart store manager Jacob Beebe, preside over the official grand re-opening of the new supercenter — Store No. 2119 — at 301 Ranch Drive in Milpitas Sept. 25.

Photo courtesy of Walmart

Walmart hosts formal re-opening

By MILPITAS POST STAFF
Although an expanded Milpitas Walmart opened to shoppers some months ago, a formal opening celebration of the supercenter store took place last week.

"This is the official re-grand opening of the store," Jacob Beebe, the store manager, said Friday afternoon.

Earlier that day, Beebe was along side Mayor Jose Esteves, Milpitas Chamber of Commerce President Liz Ainsworth, Milpitas Economic Development Manager Edesa Bitbadal and others who attended a morning event to showcase the store at

301 Ranch Drive,

The event, which followed an unofficial opening of the expanded store in late June, highlighted the store's 144,000-square-foot expansion and its operation of 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to Beebe, the Milpitas Walmart employs more than 300 full- and part-time associates, approximately 80 of whom were hired due to the expansion.

As part of the growth, the company says Milpitas customers will find fresh produce and a full line of groceries from brand names, including organic selections. There are now

meat and bakery selections.

In 2011, a prior Milpitas City Council approved the controversial Walmart store expansion of nearly 18,460 square feet, to allow liquor sales, groceries and 24-hour operation.

According to the company, Walmart stores attract more than 250 million customers and members visit more than 11,200 stores under 71 banners in 27 countries and e-commerce websites in 11 countries. With fiscal year 2014 sales exceeding \$473 billion, Walmart employs more than 2 million associates worldwide.