



Observer photo by Kate Howes

Construction continues on the new DG (Dollar General) Market, located at 1416 11th St., DeWitt. The Overland Group of Missouri broke ground on the project in October. The store will employ 10 to 15 people. Tentative plans call for the current Dollar General store to remain open.

DG Market to offer more food

By KATE HOWES

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The new DG (Dollar General) Market is taking shape in DeWitt and is on track to welcome shoppers sometime this winter.

The Overland Group of West Plains, Missouri, broke ground Oct. 2 on the property, which is located at 1416 11th St. and owned by Eastern Iowa Grain.

The 156' x 80' structure is under construction and has an opening slated for "early winter," according to Dollar General's public relations department.

Department representatives noted construction progress may alter that potential date.

Many residents have been wondering what kind of products they'll find at the new business and how they will differ

from what's available at the current Dollar General Store, located straight east of the market at 336 East 11th St.

Representatives explained the DG Market format offers expanded produce, refrigerated and frozen food items, dairy products and an assortment of fresh meats.

Those items will be sold in addition to the general merchandise Dollar General commonly provides, such as a variety of foods, health and beauty products and home cleaning supplies.

The store plans to employ 10-15 employees, depending on the individual needs of the store. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the staff may apply online at www.dollargeneral.com/careers.

Another question on residents' minds is whether the current Dollar General will remain open, once construction on the DG

Market is complete.

In an email to The Observer, company representatives said yes, it will.

"At this time, our location at 336 East 11th St. in DeWitt plans to remain open and continue serving area customers."

Angela Rheingans, President and CEO of the DeWitt Chamber and Development Company, said the chamber is eager to give community members yet another choice to shop for items they need.

"The DeWitt Chamber and Development Company welcomes Dollar General Market to the community," she noted. "Their investment in a new location brings additional employment option for area residents, as well as expanded opportunities for the DeWitt community to Look Local First for their customer purchases."

SAVEMAXX ready for business

New business offers assorted furniture, appliances, decor

By KATE HOWES

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As soon as Jay Singh and his business partners toured the building that housed the former Petersen-Hagge Furniture store in DeWitt, they knew it was exactly what they wanted for their new business.

"We stood inside, looked around and said, 'This is perfect,'" Singh said with a smile. "Right there and then, we knew, this will be very good for us. Everything just clicked. We knew within 15 minutes we wanted to buy it."

The property, located at 1323 11th St., is now the home of SAVEMAXX. It's the second of two locations for the store — the other happens to be located in the previous home of Petersen-Hagge Furniture in Clinton.

While the DeWitt store opened Dec. 1, Singh said he still is in the process of planning an official grand opening.

After all, while inventory is steadily accumulating, a 30,000-square-foot showroom is a lot of space to fill.

And Singh wants the showroom to be jam-packed for the store's official unveiling.

Singh said the space is filling up quickly, and he and his staff are eager for area residents to benefit from their diverse inventory.

SAVEMAXX offers a wide variety of items, including furniture (such as mattresses, tables, chairs, office chairs and desks, living room sets) large appliances (including refrigerators, washers and dryers) small appliances (including food processors, crock pots, microwaves), home décor, bedding and even baby products, such as diapers, blankets and other essentials.

As for how Singh hopes his customers can benefit from shopping at SAVEMAXX, he said it's pretty simple.



Jay Singh, owner of SAVEMAXX in DeWitt, said the community has been extremely welcoming since the store opened Dec. 1. A grand-opening celebration is being planned for the store, which offers a wide variety of items, including furniture, appliances and home décor.

The Observer photo by Kate Howes

"We don't want people to have to pay retail," he noted. "That pretty much sums it up. Our up-front costs are not that much, which is why we're able to give that back to people."

He said so far, the public has been extremely welcoming and gracious. Whether they've come into the store or visited the store's Facebook page, he said people have been showing "a lot of love." Singh said that warm reception motivates him even more to offer community members any number of products at an affordable price.

And to make it unnecessary for them to leave town to get what they need.

"We want to be that one place people can go to buy whatever they want, and not have to go to the Quad Cities," he explained. "People have the data on what things cost; they can look it up and see it. They don't want to have to go to the Quad Cities, but they will drive the extra 20 minutes to get a good deal. We want them to get those good deals right here."

He said a few renovations have been made to the building since he and his partners, who consist of family members and friends, purchased the building. They put on new siding, installed new lighting outside and erected the new sign.

Singh, who is 33, lives in Bettendorf. He and his wife, Jaisleen, who is finishing dental school in Nebraska, have an 8-month-old daughter, Mehar.

He studied industrial engineering at Purdue University, and in addition to running SAVEMAXX, works as a stock trader.

Singh said he is enjoying getting to know area residents and is looking forward to offering the latest in home decor, furniture and appliances at reasonable prices for years to come.

"We have lots of big plans for the DeWitt store," Singh noted. "I think we're fulfilling a need here in DeWitt. Everybody has been so nice and so supportive, we can't wait to see what the future brings."

LEGALS

Continued from page 13

will be fine until the next budget amendment. Irwin said he researched boiler life cycles and rotating how they operate and that does make him feel more comfortable with replacing all of them at the same time.

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to authorize the chairman to sign the contract to replace all three boilers in the Clinton County Administration Buildings.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes.

Motion carried.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Friday, January 19, 2024.

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Clinton County Board of Supervisors

Jan. 19, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met. Present were Supervisors Irwin, Srp and George. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

9 a.m. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

9 a.m. Board of Health/Sanitarian FY25 Budget Presentation

9:15 a.m. Planning and Zoning FY25 Budget Presentation

9:25 a.m. Veterans Affairs FY25 Budget Presentation

9:35 a.m. Human Resources FY25 Budget Presentation

9:55 a.m. Board of Supervisors FY25 Budget Presentation

10 a.m. FY25 Budget Discussion - The Supervisors discussed the previously presented proposed budgets and other budget-related issues.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024.

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

BRIEFLY

City of DeWitt audit released; deficiency reported

Winkel, Parker & Foster, CPA PC released an audit report on Dec. 19 for the City of DeWitt.

The city's receipts totaled \$15,293,238 for the year ended June 30, 2023, a 19.8 percent decrease from the prior year. Disbursements for the year ended June 30, 2023, totaled \$15,683,603, a 21.7 percent increase from the prior year. The decrease in receipts is due to less bond proceeds over the prior year, while the increase in disbursements is due to more capital project expenditures in the current year.

The city's audit reported two findings for the year ended June 30, 2023, which can be found on pages 54 and 56 of the report. A significant deficiency was reported related to employee benefit enrollment. Immaterial non-compliance was reported for deficit fund balances. Recommendations were provided to address each of the audit findings.

A copy of the audit report is available for review in the city clerk's office, the Office of Auditor of State, and on the Auditor of State's website, <https://auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports>.

40th annual Bald Eagle Watch rescheduled for Feb. 17

Due to weather, the 40th annual Bald Eagle Watch has been rescheduled for Feb. 17.

There are two locations for the event. Educational programs and environmental exhibits will be held at the Clinton campus of Eastern Iowa Community College, located at 1000 Lincoln Blvd in Clinton from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

The program schedule at the college includes a welcome at 9:30 a.m. by Matthew Cihaski from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Jacquelynn Albrecht from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), a live birds of prey presentation on wings and talons at 10 a.m., a presentation by Ed Britton (USFWS) at 11 a.m. on Upper Mississippi River NWFR Celebrating 100 Years, a live bald eagle presentation by Kay Neumann (SOAR) at 12:30 p.m., and a conservation kids program with Clinton County Conservation and USFWS at 1:30 p.m.

Eagle viewing with naturalists will be held at Lock and Dam #13 located at 4999 Lock Road in Fulton, Illinois, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Be sure to dress for the weather. The Lock will have a warming station available and light refreshments provided, while supplies last.

This event is free to attend and there will be a free shuttle operating on a continuous route between locations. For more information on the 40th annual Bald Eagle Watch please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Thomson Park Rangers at (563) 362-8839 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (815) 273-2732.