

Hobby Lobby takes a hop and skip for better visibility

By WILL BUSS
News-Democrat

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS — Hobby Lobby will leave the Crossroads Centre along Lincoln Trail and relocate to the Fairview City Centre across the street.

Vince Parker, a spokesman from the hobby retail chain's corporate offices in Oklahoma City, confirmed the move but did not disclose how soon the store will relocate.

Fairview Heights Economic Development Director Mike Malloy said Crossroads Centre owner Brixmor is pursuing another major retail chain to occupy the space that Hobby Lobby will be vacating.

"The bottom line is Hobby Lobby is relocating because of visibility," Malloy said. "With Brixmor hotly pursuing another national tenant, what I call 'the domino effect' is working. We are hoping another redevelopment is going to occur within Crossroads Centre."

Fairview Heights-based Impact Strategies is building Fairview City Centre for Dayton, Ohio-based property owner Kimco

Realty Corp. The redevelopment at the corner of Lincoln Trail and Illinois 159 was where a pre-existing shopping center stood that had included Kmart from 1998 to 2012 and a Venture store prior to that. That shopping strip was demolished last year. A portion of it was built in the late 1960s and predated the St. Clair Square mall across the street.

Petco has remained in place at the far north end of the shopping center during the redevelopment as a new facade and entrance was built outside the pet shop.

Office Max has since relocated from its former spot at the far south end and has reopened next

door and south of Petco.

Sports Authority has relocated to the retail redevelopment earlier this year after years in the Fairview Heights Plaza on Ludwig Drive in town.

Next, home decor and furniture retailer Home Goods is advertising a grand opening for Oct. 26 at Fairview City Centre.

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market will soon finish construction at the redeveloped shopping center and may open its doors by December. The 28,000-square-foot organic grocery store is ahead of schedule.

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