

HomeGoods packs in the merchandise, customers

I had to work my way through the crowd when I visited the new HomeGoods store in Fairview Heights this week. I found myself grousing over maneuvering the packed aisles — who goes shopping on Tuesday but me? — but there was nothing to complain about when it came to the amount of merchandise. I can't remember going down one aisle in a store, then coming back a few minutes later to find new merchandise had been put out!

What I do know is that if you are a regular shopper of TJ Maxx or Marshall's, think of HomeGoods as the giant version of their decor/home accessories sections. (They are all owned by the same company.) That's not a bad thing, though. You'll also find rugs and more furniture.

The bath and beauty section is well stocked also, with some nice liquid soap and lotion sets to put out in the powder room when guests are coming. The pumpkin-spice set I liked sat in a white ceramic tray with a white hand towel for \$7.99. An orange-cinnamon set came in a metal basket for \$6.99.

If you have a TJ Maxx/Marshall's rewards card, make sure to use it at HomeGoods, too. The new store is at the corner of Illinois 159 and Lincoln Trail.

I learned something new this week about two popular retailers: **Bed, Bath & Beyond** bought out (Cost Plus) **World Market** in 2012.



SUZANNE BOYLE
SHOPPING



Keep feet warm with footies from DSW in Fairview Heights.

I discovered this accidentally as I wandered through BB&B in Fairview Heights, which is undergoing some interior changes. One of those changes is adding a specialty food section with merchandise from World Market.

Things seem a little tight right now inside the store with curtailed-off work going on in two areas. Still, I had no problem spying two "gadgets" I liked: When I was in California last week, I saw a lot



SUZANNE BOYLE/

Add a towel with a message to your kitchen this autumn from Eckert's Country Store in Belleville.

of humans throwing a lot of balls for dogs to fetch on the beach. The K-9 Kannon (\$19.99) looks like a lot of fun for you and your canine in the backyard or park. It's a lime green tennis ball shooter with a grip handle, extra ball storage and hands-free pickup. The second item is for people like me who are neat freaks about their vehicles. It's a green and black, lightweight wet and dry vac (\$12.95 and about the size of a large toaster) that plugs into your lighter or power outlet in the car. It has a 3-foot-long hose, four attachments and a

12-volt motor.

Have trouble keeping the toes warm indoors as temperatures drop? DSW Warehouse in Fairview Heights has comfy, lined slippers that have non-skid soles on the bottom and cute animals embroidered on the top. Sizes are small to large. A pair costs \$12.99.

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