

Organic grocer coming to former Kmart site in Fairview Heights



STEVE NAGY/News-Democrat

Fresh Thyme President and Chief Executive Officer Chris Sherrell talks Thursday near the site in Fairview Heights.

BY WILL BUSS
News-Democrat

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS — An organic grocer will build one of its first Midwest stores at the site of the former Kmart and create 100 jobs.

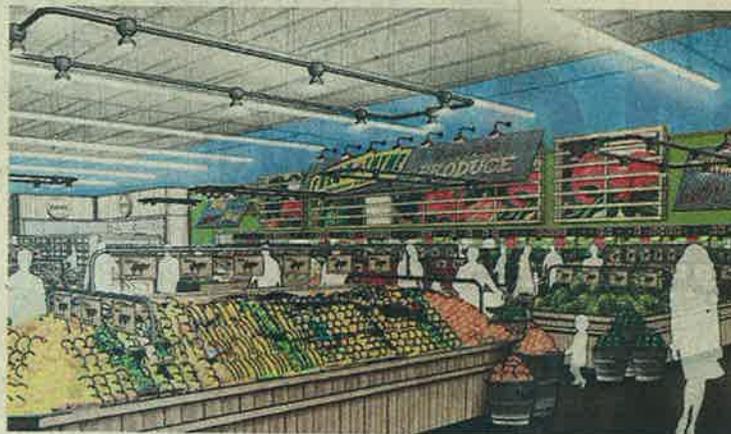
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Fresh Thyme Farmers Market on Thursday announced its plans to build a 28,000-square-foot grocery store at the new Fairview City Centre, located near the northwest corner of Illinois 159 and Lincoln Trail.

Company President and Chief Executive Officer Chris Sherrell said the store will be among the



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This rendering shows what part of the new Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market will look like.

first in the St. Louis area. Phoenix-based company wants Construction is expected to take 10 to 12 months. He said the store to build 50 stores throughout the Midwest over the next six

years.

Sherrell said a quarter of the grocery store's food will be fresh produce, more than any of its competitors.

"It's not just a fad anymore," Sherrell said. "Healthier food and a healthier lifestyle is here to stay."

The Fairview City Centre project already is under way. Demolition of the existing shopping center, which had housed Kmart from 1998 until last December and initially opened in 1970 as a Venture retail store, began in June. Fairview Heights-based Impact Strategies is building the new shopping center that will be built in its place and will have six new store spaces

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