

ADDING ON

A number of commercial developments planned or under way dot the metro-east landscape. A new hardware and home improvement store, a couple grocery stores, a new restaurant and a shopping center are in the works

By WILL BUSS | News-Democrat

MENARDS

What: 162,000-square-foot store hardware and home improvement store and 42,000-square-foot outdoor warehouse

Where: 1179 Central Park Drive in O'Fallon

When: Expected to open by the spring

This is the first metro-east locale for the Eau Claire, Wis.-based chain of hardware and home improvement stores. Menards has 271 stores in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Stores include full-service lumberyards, garden centers, landscape blocks, lighting, tools, hardware supplies, doors, windows, flooring, plumbing supplies, cabinets, appliances, Christmas decorations, patio furniture and home decor. It is within the Central Park TIF, a \$30.5 million tax incentive that includes commercial developments such as Menards, a large hardware store.

FAIRVIEW CITY CENTRE

What: Retail center redevelopment

Where: 6525 N. Illinois St. in Fairview Heights

Heights

When: Demolition gets under way sometime in late February or early March. Opening day to be determined.

Plans call for demolishing all the retail space from the existing Office Max on the south end all the way north to the space next to Petco. The new shopping center will have six new store spaces. Both Petco and Office Max would remain as tenants. Sporting goods retailer Sports Authority has plans to relocate to the new shopping center.

RULER FOODS

What: 19,000-square-foot grocery store

Where: Corner of 17th Street and North Belt West in Belleville (former Bel-Air Bowl site)

When: Needs approval from the full City Council. Owner Kroger Co. has the final decision on whether to build.

Ruler is a division of parent company JayC Food Stores based in Indiana, which in turn is owned by the Kroger Co. The City Council's Economic and Development and Annexation Committee agreed to provide money for demolition and site development at the old Bel-Air Bowl site. The city will provide \$200,000 in tax increment financing money to help the company build a new Ruler Foods store at the site. TIF districts allow city leaders to use property tax revenue to reimburse developers for infrastructure costs. The plans include 12 full-time jobs.

JAZZ AT WALTER CIRCLE

What: Senior housing, commercial development

Where: Adjacent to Emerson Park in East St. Louis

When: Expected to open by the end of March

This housing development is being built by Emerson Park and is bordered to the south by MetroLink station. The new four-story, 100,000-square-foot building will have a grocery store, a credit union, and Southern Illinois Regional Care will have a wellness center on the first floor. The building straddles Walter Street by an enclosed community space the bridges the street and connects the north and south sides of the complex at the second, third and fourth floors. A roundabout, or circular drive, is being built at the front entrance on the building's east side. It will have 74 apartment units available for those 62 and older, will be handicapped accessible and have a number of amenities, including laundry, Wi-Fi access, and an in-house doctor's office. The exterior will be marked by a prominent clock tower on the building's south side. The rooftop will have a terrace and garden.

CHEDDAR'S CASUAL CAFE

What: Restaurant

Where: 6600 N. Illinois St. Fairview Heights

Heights

When: Expected to open by May or June

Cheddar's Casual Cafe bought the former Casa Gallardo restaurant property, where the Irving, Texas-based chain demolished the existing Spanish-style, 10,500-square-foot building and will construct a new restaurant on that site. Casa Gallardo left Fairview Heights last February after 29 years.

GORDON FOOD SERVICE

What: Bulk food delivery service and grocery store

Where: 340 Market Place in Fairview Heights

When: Expected to open by early April

Plans call for 75 parking spaces, but there is no word yet about how many jobs are coming with it. The Grand Rapids, Mich.-based company started out as a butter-and-egg delivery business in 1897.