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Top Stories

Stop & Shop plans to lease old Ames space

By: Matt Peppe

05/12/2005

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Move would mean bigger building across street

HYDE PARK-A new Super Stop & Shop supermarket will replace the Ames building in the Hyde Park Mall, announced mall owner John Azarian.

Azarian, of Azarian Management and Development Company, released a statement last week saying he has entered a lease agreement with Stop & Shop.

The supermarket, filling the 65,000 square foot space, is slated for opening in 2006.

A receptionist from Azarian Management said a joint statement from the town and Stop & Shop would be released soon.

Supervisor Yancy McArthur said he had spoken with Azarian, who informed him Stop & Shop wanted to tear down the Ames building to construct a bigger building.

"It's a good move and it will revitalize the shopping center," McArthur said.

The supervisor said Stop & Shop would allow its current space to be leased to any company other than a grocer or a pharmacy.

He also confirmed there was "talk of a Lowes" moving into the Route 9 site, but that would require expansion of the current building, which would have to go through planning board approval.

Stop & Shop was not able to be reached for comment.

Local business would be affected

Other stores in the Hyde Park Mall looked forward to the arrival of Stop & Shop.

"It'll help all of us," said Maggie Gephard, owner of Liquorama Wine Cellars. "A customer might stop in for a haircut or go over to RadioShack to sign up for a cell phone plan."

Besides additional business, Gephard said Stop & Shop will have other positive benefits for employees.

"It's lonely," said Gephard, who added the Ames store has been vacant at least three years. "For the people who work here, there'll finally be a place to go over and get lunch."

Nancy Wells, owner of Cut' N Dry, was also excited about Stop & Shop moving to Hyde Park Mall.

"It's great," Wells said. "There should be a lot more activity in the plaza."

Carole Cusco, owner of the hot dog truck on Saint Andrews Road, across the street from the current Stop



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& Shop, worried the supermarket's departure might take away from business.

"I wish they would stay here," Cusco said. But she said she has no plans to move. "I'll be here. Most Hyde Park people know I'm here," Cusco said.

Cusco has operated the truck for 12 years in the immediate area around Route 9 and Saint Andrews Road.

Shoppers react

Several shoppers at Stop & Shop said they wouldn't like to see one vacant building replaced by another.

"As long as they don't waste anything. If they put the building to good use, I don't see any harm in it," said Hyde Park resident Michelle Seko.

"It would be great to have something in the Ames building-great for the community-but it seems strange they built this one and now they're moving," said Dan Sims.

One customer mentioned one benefit of the current Stop & Shop location.

"I think the parking is better here," said Kelly Redl-Hardisty.

Others didn't seem affected by the notice of a bigger supermarket across the street.

"Its not gonna mean much to me. I only come here for quick stops," said Jessica Monck Trifilo.

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