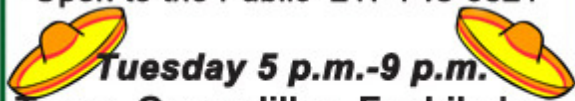


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Hoopeston IGA renovations to benefit customers, workers

Hoopeston IGA is not closing.

Hoopeston IGA has not been sold.

Hoopeston IGA is not becoming a County Market.

But there are big changes coming.

A remodeling plan, in development for more than two years, is expected to start this week.

The plan calls for a new façade and entryway, expanded deli, new customer-accessible restrooms and more, said store manager Bob Porth, adding that Kirby IGA is investing about \$1.5 million in revamping Hoopeston's only grocery store.

First, a part of a wall will be knocked out and a tempo-

rary door installed about where the outside bulletin board is. The door will allow customers to enter while the new steel-sided façade and single-door entryway is constructed.

The new external doors will lead into a vestibule, with doors then leading into the store. The design will improve energy efficiency by keeping hot or cold air out of the store's checkout area.

Inside, checkout stands will be made roomier and shelves - called gondolas - will be moved "some six inches, some two and a half feet," Porth said. Customers

See IGA on other side



Semi snags phone lines, disrupts service, power

A Hoopeston man was charged after the semi tractor/trailer he was driving caught on utility lines and snapped poles at 12:07 p.m. Sunday.

Jeremy Coffey, 34, of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Freightliner semi, caught a low hanging telephone wire at the intersection of Sixth St. and McNeil. In the process, several poles and wires were pulled down, damaging property in the area, including one which landed in the bed of a pickup truck at Sixth and Judson. In all, about nine poles were broken.

Coffey was arrested on preliminary charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and DUI. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

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Hoopeston IGA’s storefront, shown here, will be getting a facelift, along with other improvements. Work is expected to begin this week and be completed in March 2015.

IGA continued from other side

will have to become accustomed to a new product layout. For example, bread will be moved to the last aisle so it will be the last thing in the cart, not among the first.

The deli will be the shining star of the project, with an expanded area and new equipment, which will lead to more products for customers. “We don’t have stoves,” Porth said of the current deli. That will change, with new stoves, a bigger hot case steam table, new meat cases and coolers and other changes that will allow Hoopeston IGA to offer more deli selections.

In the back end of the store, existing offices will be moved to accommodate changes in the deli. The storage area will also be moved and expanded and employees will get a new break room. Construction on the back end will allow those changes, as well as the ability to add coolers that will be outside the main store walls, thereby not taking up valuable floor space.

One change that won’t be made is the addition of alcohol in the store.

IGA had a liquor license for beer and wine when the store was in what is now Hoopeston City Hall, but gave it up when it was moved to its current location.

Some IGA stores have added alcohol as the stores were remodeled but a license is not available. “If one becomes available, we’ll see but I’m not going to ask (the city council) to change it,” Porth said.

Porth has applied for the city’s façade program, which will pay 50 percent of costs up to a total of \$5,000 from city Tax Increment Financing funds.

Renovations are expected to be completed in March 2015. Work will slow over Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons so the influx of shoppers won’t be affected by construction.

Porth has met with employees, telling them to expect a higher stress level while renovations are going on. “It will be a trying six-month time,” he said. “Everybody is going to be frustrated.” But the frustration will pay off for customers and employees.

“We’re excited as can be to do it,” he said, admitting the existing store “is tired, the equipment is worn. We had to wait our turn,” he explained. “The community supported the store and they deserve an updated store.

There is one thing that won’t change. “No matter what changes we make, Sandy (the pony) is staying.”

New Books at the Library



Children’s Room

Non-Fiction

- The Pilot and the Little Prince: The Life of Antoine de Saint-Exupery by Peter Sis
- Founding Mothers by Cokie Roberts
- Women Heroes of World War I by Kathryn J. Atwood
- Stubby the War Dog by Ann Bausum
- The Star-Spangled Banner by Peter Spier

DVDs

- The Nut Job
- Paw Patrol

Fiction

- Ivy and Bean Make the Rules by Annie Barrows
- Arthur’s Nose by Marc Brown
- The Map Trap by Andrew Clements

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 84. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 65. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of storms late. High 85, low 69.

Classifieds

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