

Farmer Jack celebrates store remodeling

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Farmer Jack representatives and Farmington-area leaders Wednesday celebrated the completion of a \$1.5 million remodeling of its 43,000-square-foot Farmington store located at 22128 Farmington Road at Nine Mile Road in the Farmington Crossroads Plaza.

This is the third renovation in 18 years.

Michael Carter, president of Farmer Jack, greeted local officials during the ribbon-cutting. It included Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell, Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue, council members Arnold Campbell and Mike Harrison, Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock and Carleigh Flaherty, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Justin Anton, a bagger at the store for four years, assisted with the ribbon cutting. He is a student in the Visions Unlimited program in Farmington Public Schools which assists adults with special needs.

Anton said he liked the people and the job. "It's fun," Anton said. "I like when I get paid. I'm a fan of money."

Teacher Consultant Ed Wolf from Farmington Public Schools represented Visions Unlimited.

'VERY PLEASED'

"We are very pleased to celebrate the completion of this spectacular remodeling and offer this new



Farmer Jack president Mike Carter welcomes shoppers back to the remodeled store at Farmington and Nine Mile Roads. Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell was one of the local officials who came to honor the occasion.

state-of-the-art store to the residents of Farmington and its surrounding communities," Carter said.

"We listened to our customers and made many changes to increase the quality of each cus-

tomers shopping experience. This store now has an extraordinary assortment of offerings and we look forward to providing our customers with fresh groceries, superior customer service and reasonable prices."

Changes include:

- a new, second lobby entrance.
- earth-tone decor featuring nonslip flooring and scenic farm-themed murals.

Special store features include: a new entranceway; a freestanding can-and-bottle redemption center situated next to the store; an enhanced produce and floral department; widened aisles; kiddie carts; motorized shopping carts for the physically disabled; the Great Atlantic & Pacific Seafood counter; a Hot Foods Rotisserie specializing in chicken and ribs; a full-service deli featuring fresh meats, cheeses, and prepared salads; Jack's Butcher Shop specializing in custom meat cutting; expanded frozen food and bakery departments; a full-service pharmacy with private access to the pharmacist; a service center complete with a post office, CoinStar machine, copy machine, and Western Union services; easily accessible restrooms; a full-service Guaranty Bank, and a no-fee ATM.

The store is open 24 hours. The renovations took place during a three-month period, while the store remained open to the public.

Farmer Jack also offers the Baby Bonus Savings Club. This program offers \$30 cash back at the register after the customer has purchased \$200 in baby-related items.

SHOPPERS PLEASED

Farmington Hills resident Donna Matsen has shopped at the store for 15 years. "The aisles seem to be wider," Matsen said. "It's brighter. It makes a huge difference."



Even the Farmer Jack employees like Rob Harris were in high spirits for the re-opening.

Shopper Sheryl Duda complimented Fletcher. "We've had five store managers and Mr. Fletcher is the best," Duda said.

Her son, Josh, who will graduate from Farmington High School in June, has worked as a bagger for four years.

She's both pleased with his experience and with Farmington High School Principal John Barrett's recommendation that Farmer Jack is a good place for young people to work.

Students from art teacher Gayle Killingbeck's classes did artwork at the store Thursday.

The remodeling represents a commitment to the Farmington community, Carter said.

Farmer Jack recently closed its store at Eight Mile and Grand River in Livonia after opening a new store on Seven Mile near Middlebelt in Livonia which is 20 percent bigger, Carter said.

"We looked at multiple factors going on: population growth, available space to expand and lease time," he said.

New stores under construction are in Detroit in the Jefferson-St. Jean area, in Dearborn Heights and in Milford.

Hazardous waste drop off set May 10

The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County will hold a Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day for residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Costick Center, located at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Items such as used computer equipment, oil based paints (no latex paints accepted), stains, household and automotive batteries, motor oil, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, and other common household chemicals.

For more information on the HHW Drop Off Day or items that will be accepted at the event, call the RRRASOC at (248) 209-2270.

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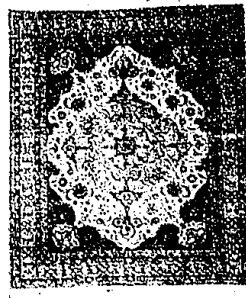
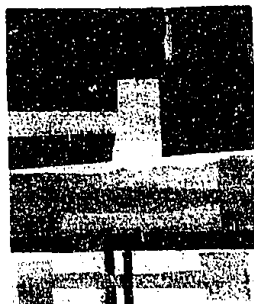
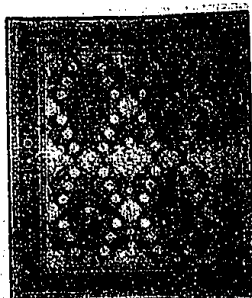
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