

# Meijer will open July 9 after development delays

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SYCAMORE – After years of construction and delayed development due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, the doors of Sycamore's newest grocery store and supercenter, Michigan-based Meijer, will be open July 9.

According to a news release Thursday, the Grand Rapids, Michigan-based retailer which currently operates 248 supercenters and grocery stores throughout Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky will open its doors at 541 Puri Parkway at 6 a.m. July 9.

The store has also been outfitted with plexiglass shields and safety signage inside to continue to follow state-mandated guidelines to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The new 155,000-square-foot super-

center near the intersection of DeKalb Avenue and Peace Road will feature grocery, bakery, meat and deli counters, as well as a garden center, the release states.

Other departments will include a pharmacy, electronics, toys, sports and apparel. The new store will follow mandated state requirements and guidelines regarding social distancing. Inside the store, safety decals will be on the floor where customers typically gather and protective plexiglass shields are at every checkout station.

Store employees will also receive daily health screenings and temperature checks, and are recommended to wear masks, the release states. Customers are requested to wear masks according to any applicable state guidelines.

Weekly sales at the supercenter begin when doors open.



Shaw Media file photo

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## • BARBERSHOP

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However, Powell said the process of becoming a barber was difficult because there wasn't a local barber-shop school. He had to attend classes for his certificate in Schaumburg.

"I'm working with another barber-shop in Sycamore to create a local bar-

ber school, Legacy Academy," he said. "There's no barber schools nearby, and there's a shortage of barbers."

Luke Davis of DeKalb, 22, said that he's been to other barber-shops in DeKalb, but In & Out Cuts Barbershop "is different."

"It gives me a home feeling and an all-around better experience," Davis said. "With a new haircut, I feel like a

new man that can take on the world. The first thing after [a new haircut], I take a picture and show everyone."

In & Out Cuts Barbershop guarantees that customers will like their new hairstyle.

"If you don't like it, it's free," Powell said. "A haircut will definitely change the way you look at yourself and how you feel. I love everyone's

reactions when they look in the mirror after a cut or shave."

Instead of art or paintings on the barber-shop walls, Powell hangs photos of his customers' new hairstyles.

"It's a wall of appreciation," he said. "Some stores and shops might have something from IKEA or art, but I have my customers on my walls. It's because I appreciate what they've done for me."

## • WORKOUTS

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"It's been a little hard on impact, so we've had to take that into account," said Elise Craven, an instructor at the gym. "Make sure everyone stays safe and people aren't landing super hard. It's been a good challenge for us to take on working out in a parking lot. But it's one that has made us all better."

Renne Allen, a member of the gym, said she was excited when she found out classes would be resuming in person.

"I usually come to the 5 a.m. so I don't have to deal with the heat like some of the other people do," Allen said with a chuckle. "I actually have no problem with the outdoors, but I get from a business perspective it's only conducive to the earlier classes because of the heat."

The early classes have a big success, Davis said.

"People honk as they go by. There's a guy literally at 5, 5:30 every single morning, he honks as he goes by," Davis said. "We run Facebook ads for marketing, and he posted that he



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Michael Davis, owner of Fortitude Fitness in Sycamore, talks Tuesday at the gym about the floor squares they created that designate each class participants' space to help facilitate social distancing. Participants can use the inside of the gym starting Friday as the region moves into the next phase of Illinois' reopening plan.

honks every single morning. I messaged him and said thanks, our members love hearing you when you go by."

Davis said the workouts will move back indoors Friday when Phase 4 begins. With a 30-person capacity, the

gym will be able to host classes with 15 people, but Davis said to start they'll roll with 12-person groups and two instructors.

"We feel like what we've put into place is keeping people as safe as can be," Davis said. "By distancing them

apart, following what the CDC has put out there, what IDPH has put out there (Monday) in regards to being masked through the door, no masks for workouts, then masks as they leave. We take temperatures as they walk up. We're putting all those things in place to keep people safe."

He said outdoor aspects will be woven into the classes, as has been done in the past, but the classes will move back inside.

Noe Escamilla started attending classes Monday, waiting to see how things went before committing back to the gym.

Davis said he understands that anxiety. He said he felt some in reopening, worried about spreading the virus. But he said while some people have complained about Pritzker's re-open plan, he's happy that things are going slow and cautious.

"I'm glad we have guidelines to follow and we're not just opening everything up," Davis said. "My trainers and our clients, they're health is our No. 1 thing. I'm glad we're not just opening up willy nilly that we have some restrictions to keep them safe."