



Expect new stores at Crossroads



Vicki Ikeogu, vikeogu@stcloudtimes.com 7:40 p.m. CST January 25, 2016



(Photo: Times graphic)

Construction is underway as Crossroads Center prepares to make room for new retailers to enter the Central Minnesota market.

"We never like to see a retailer close," Crossroads General Manager Darcy Eigen said. "But it does provide us with new opportunities."

Eigen said January is typically when most mall tenants have their leases up for renewal. And with the expiration of some leases and negotiations of others, Eigen said, new retail opportunities become available.

Two new retailers will be coming to the mall by fall: Rogers & Hollands Jewelers, and Shoe Dept. Encore.

Rogers & Hollands Jewelers will be moving into space occupied by the Claire's.

"It is a new concept for the store," Eigen said. "But they will still carry the same merchandise."

Construction on the new Claire's store has already begun. Eigen said the store should be open by April, prior to the start of construction on the new Rogers & Hollands. Work on the jewelry store should wrap up by June.

Shoe Dept. Encore is expected to open by late summer in space adjacent to Macy's southern mall entrance. Construction has not begun.

Eigen said several stores have relocated in anticipation of Shoe Dept. Encore. The Nail Studio will be moving a store front across the hall, next to the GNC store, and The Watchman will return to a cart kiosk.

Eigen said the mall is in talks with Hallmark about developing a different concept and finding a new location for the store.

Crossroads is also preparing to begin construction on Chick-fil-A, the stand-alone building formerly occupied by Pizza Hut. Eigen said construction will begin on April 1.

Eigen said several stores within the mall have been in the process of relocating.

Zumiez relocated in September to a spot next to Buckle, near Macy's southern mall entrance.

The last store to be relocating is one of the mall's newest additions, Games by James.

"Games by James was a specialty tenant that we signed on through Christmas," Eigen said. "They wanted to try out the market to see if it was what customers wanted, which (customers) did."

Games by James will be relocating next to Payless ShoeSource on the eastern end of the mall near Sears.

Eigen said to date only one store, Tip Top Tux, failed to renew its lease. Tip Top Tux was located near Target in the northeastern part of the mall.

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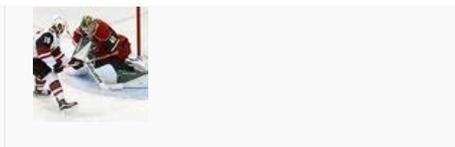
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Eigen said two additional new retailers will be announced this spring.

"There is a lot of time and a lot of planning behind the scenes," Eigen said. "But it's fun and exciting."

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