

The Montclairion

The newspaper with the hillside slant

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Newsstand 50 cents (tax)

Sports O'Dowd senior wins her third straight HAAL girls discus crown [C1]

Arts & Leisure Oakland author's novel offers dose of health care reality [C12]

Whole Foods plans September opening

Adams Point residents air concerns about store's impact on neighborhood traffic

By Quynh Tran
STAFF WRITER

In its final stages of construction, Oakland's first Whole Foods grocery store in Adams Point is slated to open by the end of September, said new store manager Melody Mestemacher on Monday.

The upscale natural grocery

store will take on the shell of the city's landmark Cox Cadillac building, formerly used as a auto showroom, at the corner of Harrison Street and Bay Place/27th Street as its new home.

Whole Foods will join the city's new crop of grocery stores, which include the pending arrivals of two Trader Joe's outlets

in Rockridge and Lakeshore and the past year's openings of a second Farmer Joe's in the Dimond and a Mi Pueblo Foods in Fruitvale, all which have occupied the former sites of Albertsons stores. Nearby Whole Foods sites include locations in Berkeley and Walnut Creek.

The project was first approved by the city in 2004 and would have included the construction of a 40,000-square-foot store, 125 condo units and 349 parking

spaces. Since then, the residential units have been eliminated, the store has been enlarged to about 50,000 square feet and the number of parking spaces has been reduced to 204.

Construction began in April 2005 with an original proposed opening in summer 2006. City Director of Development Claudia Cappio said problems discovered during construction such as in the building's foundation caused some of the delays.

The building was originally built in the late 1890s as a power station for the old Oakland Cable Railway Co.

The store's location near Interstate 580 off the Harrison Street and Oakland Avenue exit may be advantageous for shoppers from around the city, but nearby residents are concerned about the additional traffic the store would attract.

Whole Foods would be across from Westlake Middle School,

which has about 700 students and the First Congregational Church.

About 40 residents turned up for a meeting organized by citywoman Nancy Nadel on Monday at the Veterans Memorial Building to address their concerns.

Resident Elise Ackerman she supports the store's opening but wanted to ensure

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CELEBRATING JOAQUIN MILLER PARK



GREGORY UNQUILAGA/STAFF



JOAQUIN MILLER PARK played host to a May 5 spring event featuring music, games, dance, demonstrations, hikes, tours, naturalist and historical talks and an informational fair by park user and neighborhood groups. At top, Eddie Dunbar of Bug People identifies bugs that the children caught in the park. Above left, are Dunbar's examples of Oakland bugs. At right, Bobby Fulmore of the Parks and Recreation Department plays with a beach ball.

City spending next four months on base strategy

Wayans Brothers' studio plan needs time limits, West Oakland group says

By Cecily Burt
MEDIANEWS STAFF

It's crunch time at the former Oakland Base.

With several interests competing for a share of the city's 165-acre share of the former base and the Wayans Brothers' deal up in the air, the city is determined to spend the next four months developing a comprehensive economic development strategy that might or might not include a studio.

The Army base closed in 1990. There have been several planning efforts during the past eight years to define the right type of development, development that will create well-paying jobs and economic vitality for the city.

But lately, the planning decisions have been driven mostly by unsolicited proposals rather than clear direction by city leaders.

For example, a group of auto dealers on Broadway Auto Row successfully lobbied for

28 acres to create a small freeway auto mall. The Wayans Brothers sold the city on a 70-acre and television production studio combined with an entertainment complex, retail center and housing.

The auto mall is scheduled to break ground later this year, but the agreement with the Wayans Brothers' Fulton Development Group appears kaput. The council agrees to extend a deadline to June 15, something it has not yet been asked to do.

The four-month base-planning process approved by the Community and Economic Development Committee on Tuesday will involve the Westland Community Advisory Group that was created to make sure the community's interests were considered in the base reuse.

Staff will build on prior agreements, such as the 2002 final base reuse plan. That plan defined the types of uses, including light industrial, commercial, office, research and development, among others.

The planning process also will rely on consultants' report that examined the economic

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