

NEWS

Doylestown welcomes new Whole Foods as Homegoods and Marshalls join Plumsteadville plaza



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Construction of Bucks County's first Whole Foods Market in Doylestown could start as early as next summer.

Whole Foods will take a portion of the space currently occupied by Marshalls and HomeGoods in the Barn Plaza shopping center, off Route 611 in Doylestown Township.

In the meantime, construction of Marshall's and HomeGoods' new location at Cross Keys Place, in neighboring Plumsteadville, is well underway and are expected to open next year toward the end of the first quarter, said Chris Chandoor, managing partner of Cross Keys Development Company, which owns the center.

Kristen Moore, a spokesperson with Brixmor Property Group, the leasing and development company that owns Barn Plaza, said construction of the new Whole Foods is expected to start next summer, once Marshalls and HomeGoods has moved out.

The Barn Plaza is home to Kohl's, Regal Cinemas, Starbucks, Harmon Face Values, Pure Barre, Piccolo Trattoria, Gerhard's Appliances, Tower Health Urgent Care and Applebee's, among other shops. No updates were available on possible tenants for the remaining portion of the Marshalls and HomeGoods space or the space formerly occupied by GameStop.

In October, Doylestown Township supervisors waived the land development process for the new Whole Foods since only interior renovations were planned, said township manager Stephanie Mason. The next step will be to review the sewage capacity planning module, she added.

A Whole Foods spokesperson confirmed a new location in Doylestown is in development, but said no additional details were available.

More: Organic grocery giant Whole Foods coming to Barn Plaza shopping center in Doylestown

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At Cross Keys, in addition to Marshalls and HomeGoods, PJ Whelihan's is also slated to join the shopping center.

The restaurant currently has 19 locations throughout South Jersey and Pennsylvania, with its closest sites in Horsham and Hatfield. PJ Whelihan's is sports bar offering casual dining with a pub menu featuring wings, burgers, salads and a large selection of beer.

On track to open in the spring of 2023, PJ Whelihan's will occupy a new free-standing building, currently being constructed across from Giant.

Plumstead Township manager Angela Benner said once exterior work and interior fit outs are complete, the projects will wrap up with final inspections and certificates of occupancy will be issued.

She said township officials are happy to see the changes at Cross Keys and welcome new businesses to Plumstead.

"All of this is great for the community, as it provides more places for residents to shop and eat in the township. The Cross Keys Shopping Center is becoming a one stop location for several needs," Benner said.

"We look forward to having these businesses as part of our community and we look forward to them opening their doors."

The current projects at Cross Keys Place are only the most recent changes the shopping center has seen over the past year with a newly expanded Giant, which moved across the center to the former K-Mart space last December; the Rita's Water Ice relocating from its standalone building to a larger store in a portion of the space formerly occupied by Doylestown Fitness Center in June and the addition of Five and Below, which opened in October 2021.

More: Marshalls & HomeGoods, Five Below and larger Giant coming to Plumstead shopping center

More: New, larger Giant opens in Doylestown

It is also home to several other retailers and restaurants, including Phi, Five Guys, Jersey Mike's, Saladworks, Subway, Perkins, True Value Hardware, CVS Pharmacy and Yoga Six.

Owners also plan to give Cross Keys Place a facelift to coincide with overall improvements, which include façade renovations, installing new curbs and sidewalks as needed and putting in new storm drains.

With two empty spaces remaining, Chandor said the center is close to being fully leased.

A letter of intent has been signed for the space previously occupied by G2 Computers, he said, and they are "in discussions" with a potential tenant for the 4,000-square-foot of remaining space formerly leased by Doylestown Fitness Center.

"Hopefully by end of spring or summer of next year, the center will be fully occupied," Chandor said, noting the effort they have put into ensuring the shopping center continues to remain an attractive destination for shopping and dining with two strong anchor stores and a number of retailers and restaurants, said Chandor.

"Many centers today, have ended up renting former retail stores to non-retailers," he added. "We have not done that. We have tried to keep it heavily retailed and included as many restaurants as possible."

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