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Park Street Market opens wide

Written by B C Jones on June 24th, 2010

I LOVE grocery shopping.

So, naturally I take my grocery shopping experience very seriously.

Now, I'm not picky, but I like my stores well-lit, easy to navigate and close. The new Park Street Market fits all those criteria.

Additionally, it is well-stocked and the stuff it sells is not overpriced.

The Park Street Market officially threw open its mechanical, fiber-glass doors this morning around 10 a.m.



WORKERS INSTALL PARK STREET MARKET SIGN

There was no real fanfare, no ribbon cutting, no speeches by local leaders. The store just quietly unlocked the doors to the waiting crowd (and there was a waiting crowd).

The new store is owned and run by the Shina Group out of Detroit. A manager tells me they

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A CROWD MOVES INTO PARK STREET MARKET JUST AFTER OPENING

run a bunch of similar neighborhood markets all over the state.

The opening is a victory of sorts for the Northside neighborhood,

and for Northside business leaders in particular.

The Northside Association for Community Development worked long and hard on the space before [Felpausch](#) moved into it in 2003. (Note: I reported on that grand opening too.)

Back then, the store was promoted as a sign of advancement for the area which hadn't had a grocery store for years. The argument goes that there are a lot of poor people in the area who have no choice but to hop a bus (or walk) to either Meijer on Gull Road or Hardings on Westnedge. That's a solid-gold pain in the tuchus. Having a real market nearby saves a lot of people a laborious trip while also giving them an alternative to the liquor stores and bodegas they might otherwise do their local shopping at.

But things changed. Felpausch got bought by [Spartan Stores](#) (which seems to be dead-set on buying every grocery chain in Michigan, btw). Spartan jacked prices there and then went on a closing spree soon after the economy took a dump.

Northside store finally, sadly, suddenly shut its doors back in May of 2009.

Fastwind to today, though, and the future is potentially bright for the new Park Street Market. Residents are keen to shop there. The prices are good, the atmosphere is pleasant and the employees are friendly.

If they can avoid problems that many say plagued the old store (such as high prices, shoplifting and a dingy store), they may be around for a good long time.



THE EMPLOYEES AT PARK STREET MARKET SEEM HAPPY TO BE THERE.



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