

Posted online: May 4, 2004 10:26 PM
Print publication date: May 4, 2004

New Kennedy Square to include Jewel, but no Skateland

By Rita Pearson, rpearson@qconline.com

EAST MOLINE-- A new Jewel-Osco grocery and Jiffy Express gas station are part of a Kennedy Square redevelopment that includes tearing down Skateland, a landmark roller rink.

The site plans and details of Kennedy Square became available after the city council approved an agreement with the developer Monday.

Bud Johnston of Kennedy Square Properties said Tuesday his company would tear down 10,000 square feet from the west end of the existing shopping center and build a new 54,000-square-foot Jewel-Osco grocery. He is negotiating with an existing dry cleaner to move to the east end of the center with other tenants.

Star Nails, Hungry Hobo, Davidson Jewelry, Cost Cutters and RentWay will continue as tenants at Kennedy Square.

Skateland will close by the end of the month, Mr. Johnston said. The building will be demolished this summer to make way for construction of Jiffy Express, Jewel's convenience store and fuel-pump operation, and other businesses.

Mr. Johnston and his sister, Judy Bowser, co-owners of Skateland, are consulting with a third party on a possible new roller rink in East Moline, Mr. Johnston said. Ms. Bowser has managed Skateland for 30 years. The Johnston family was instrumental in bringing recreational roller-skating to the Quad-Cities.

The Pizza Hut and Shell Service Station also will remain. The Shell station is not part of Kennedy Square.

The land between the Jiffy Express and the Pizza Hut will be divided into two parcels for future development, possibly new restaurants, Mr. Johnston said.

The city will extend First Street, a north and south roadway between 41st Avenue and Avenue of the Cities (42nd Avenue) and install a traffic signal at the new intersection.

Mr. Johnston also owns seven acres west of the new First Street, where

World Of Windows

\$189 Any Size Vinyl Double!



he expects a large retail customer to locate on the northern two-thirds of the property. Other tenants would occupy the south end of the property.

In exchange for the long-term development of Kennedy Square, the city agreed to reimburse Mr. Johnston for \$1.95 million of his multi-million project. He did not say how much the project's total cost will be. The city will use tax-increment and state revenue sharing bond funds for its share of the project.

East Moline aldermen also gave Jewel preliminary approval for more than \$720,000 in sales-tax rebates over six years. Final approval is expected May 17.

Negotiations between Mr. Johnston, Jewel-Osco and the city took three years. Jewel recently signed a long-term lease to stay at Kennedy Square. Final approval from Jewel-Osco's parent company, Albertson's of Boise, Idaho, still is pending.

[back to top](#)

Copyright © 2004 Moline Dispatch Publishing Company, L.L.C., All Rights Reserved

[Return to QC Online](#) [Return to top](#)