

METRO

Old 8 O'Clock grocery will become condos

By Eric Connor Staff Writer econnor@greenvilleonline.com

The old 8 O'Clock Superette was a mainstay of traditional grocers in downtown Greenville, where a U.S. Navy veteran for four decades kept an accommodating watch over his customers. The market across from Shrine Stadium was more than a place to buy food. It was a community gathering place in the Alta Vista neighborhood, a throwback of small-town culture in the city. Today, the last vestige of the 8 O'Clock at the corner of University Ridge and Cleveland Street will be no more. The site is being bulldozed to make way for luxury condos that developers say will "complement the Alta Vista area and capture the architectural essence of this distinctive neighborhood in downtown Greenville." The project will be called Alta Vista Place. The developers — Renaissance Development, Saad Re-

sources and Studio Fusion Architecture and Interiors — are planning an event around the demolition to acknowledge the site's history and promote their plans. The project will feature 15 luxury condos in a four-story building, with a price range of \$800,000 to \$1.5 million. Two penthouse units will be among the 15, which range from 2,900 to 4,400 square feet. The 8 O'Clock is remembered in particular for its owner, the late Bill Langley, known to his customers affectionately as "Papa." Langley, a Navy veteran, moved to the location in 1965, after construction of an East North Street location — the Better Food Store — that he operated beginning in 1949. Langley had told The Greenville News he kept a previous owner's name for the store "because it was short and easy to remember." Langley passed away in 2008 at the age of 89. The store closed the same year.

Q&Amy: A new Woodruff Road library branch

Q: What is the status of the new Greenville County library branch that is to be built in the Five Forks area?

Amy in short: It's in the works, but you won't be checking out books for at least two more years. A bit more: A new library branch for the Five Forks area has been in the works for more than two decades, most actively for the last year. But it'll be at least the end of 2016 before the new branch's doors open to the public.

It'll be the first expansion of the library system in more than 35 years.

Work on the 9.9-acre site at the intersection of Woodruff Road and Sunnydale Drive has gotten underway to prepare for construction, including removing the home that currently sits there, as well as demolishing some outbuildings, capping a well and seeding the area with grass to prevent erosion.

Afterward, the library will begin the engineering and design phase of the project, said Beverly James, executive director of the Greenville County Library System.

Though two years seems like a long way off, it's far less than the 20 years that have elapsed since a new Five Forks branch was first proposed.

It was 1993 when Greenville County Council approved an ordinance to replace nine of the 10 existing library branches (the Pelham Road branch was still relatively new at that time) and



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the main library and add a Woodruff Road branch.

The Five Forks area is the most densely populated area of Greenville County without a public library within two to three miles, James said.

"That Woodruff Road area has needed a branch for 10 to 15 years. We anticipate that our circulation out there will be double that of several current branches," said Doug Chudler, chairman of the library board of trustees.

The as-yet-unnamed Five Forks branch will not share the design style of most of the other branches that dot the county. For starters, this one will be more than twice the size.

Current branches are mostly 11,000-12,000 square feet. This one will be 30,000 square feet.

"We really needed a bigger library to serve the population in that area," James said.

The one-story building is expected to house a larger meeting room, more public comput-

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Preparations begin for ice on Main at the Courtyard Marriott's square.

ERIC CONNOR/STAFF

Look for a flood before ice arrives on Main Street

By Eric Connor Staff Writer econnor@greenvilleonline.com

If you see a flood bubbling in downtown's Village Green this coming week, there's nothing to fear: It means ice on Main is soon to be here.

For now, wood panels cover the manicured grass of the Courtyard Marriott's square — but this morning, crews will use a large crane to lower the ice rink's chiller, which keeps the ice frozen during the two-month season.

Wednesday, the flooding begins and continues for the next three days.

Crews will hook up hoses to the chiller and fill the 3,200-square-foot rink with

water, allowing it to freeze through Friday.

Then comes the grand opening Nov. 21, when the rink opens to the public at 4 p.m. after a ceremony beginning 30 minutes earlier with live entertainment, announcements and a ceremonial first skate.

The opening comes a week earlier than in the rink's previous three seasons, in part to allow skating over the Thanksgiving holiday when kids in Greenville are out of school for most of the week.

The rink was a success from the beginning as Greenville envisioned a miniature version of New York's Rockefeller Center.

The rink is packed at

peak times, welcoming those just learning to skate and those who choose to watch and enjoy some hot chocolate on the side.

If you wish you could have gone with friends to watch them wipe out on the ice, you can still see the action via the United Community Bank Ice on Main Skate Cam.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 12 and under. The cost includes skate rental.

Hours of operation vary, from as early as 11 a.m. and as late as 10 p.m. during weekend hours.

The rink is open every day, including holidays.

Hollingsworth Funds gives more than \$6.6 million locally in grants

By Angela Davis Social Issues/City People Writer davis@greenvilleonline.com

Fifty-two nonprofit organizations were among the beneficiaries of more than \$6.6 million in grants distributed by Hollingsworth Funds Inc.

Hollingsworth Funds is the charitable organizations established by the late textile industrialist John D. Hollingsworth. The total disbursed this year by Hollingsworth Funds — \$6,646,980 — exceeds last year's total by 7.9 percent, making it the largest annual gift in the organization's history.

Upon his death in 2000, Hollingsworth bequeathed nearly all of his \$290 million estate to his foundation. Hollingsworth specified in his will that 45 percent of the income or assets from the funds be distributed to Furman University, 45 percent to deserving Greenville County 501 (c)(3) charities and 10 percent to the

Greenville YMCA. Since that time, Hollingsworth Funds has distributed more than \$48 million to Furman, the Greenville YMCA and other Greenville nonprofit organizations.

The gift's total was \$415,000 in 2001 — its first year — and rose steadily to reach \$4 million by 2008.

Last year, the total disbursed was \$6,160,513, which exceeded the previous year's record by more than 31 percent.

In 2012, Hollingsworth Funds board of directors announced the distribution of \$4,710,480 in grants, up 8 percent from 2011.

In 2011, the total distributed was \$4,366 million, up 6.5 percent from 2010.

Officials of the funds have said that most of the money given to charities is earnings from financial investments, which include stocks and bonds.

"We are committed to strengthening our community

by funding highly effective organizations that bring positive change for Greenville," said Ed Good, chairman of the Hollingsworth Funds Board.

The charities chosen as grant recipients are selected each year through a competitive application program administered through the Community Foundation of Greenville.

2014 grant recipients

- Allen Temple Community Economic Development Corporation
BOOST
Cancer Society of Greenville County
Center for Developmental Services
Children's Museum of the Upstate
Clement's Kindness Fund for the Children
Communities in Schools of Greenville County
Community Foundation of Greenville
CommunityWorks Carolina

- Compass of Carolina
Daily Bread Ministries
FAVOR
Foothills Family Resources
Furman University
Genesis Homes
Golden Strip Emergency Relief & Resources Agency
Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina
Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce Foundation

- Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network
Greenville County Human Relations Commission
Greenville Free Medical Clinic
Greenville Health System
Greenville Region Workforce Collaborative
Greenville Symphony Association
Homes of Hope
Institute of Child Success
MDC
Metropolitan Arts Council
Middle Grades Success Initiative
Mill Community Ministries

- Miracle Hill Ministries
Naturaland Trust
Peace Center Foundation
Pendleton Place
Pleasant Valley Connection
Project Host
Public Education Partners
Reach Out and Read-SC
ReWiGo Ministries
Safe Harbor
South Carolina Children's Theatre
South Carolina Legal Services
St. Francis Hospital Foundation
Sustaining Way
The Family Effect Foundation
The Julie Valentine Center
Triune Mercy Center
Turning Point of South Carolina
United Ministries
United Way of Greenville County
Upcountry History Museum
Upstate Forever
Urban League of the Upstate
YMCA of Greenville