

February 2, 2007

Dominick's Finer Foods announced that they are shrinking their Chicago-area footprint

The supermarket chain, owned by California based Safeway Inc., has announced the closing of 14 stores in the metro area as underperformers and plans to close them by early April 2007. The Dominick's at 7241 Lemont Road, Downers Grove is one of the 14 identified stores. The Dominick's on Ogden Avenue will remain open.

The closing of the Dominick's on Lemont Road will affect approximately 40 employees, many of which are part-time employees. The company says the closures, which include stores in other suburbs such as Naperville and Glendale Heights, are a necessary part of a broader revitalization program. "These are necessary steps that will help position Dominick's business for success and expansion in Chicagoland," Don Keppta, Dominick's president, said in a statement.

As Dominick's closes underperforming stores, they are also making a more aggressive push to convert 20 existing stores to the new lifestyle format, which features hardwood floors, olive bars and an expanded selection of natural and organic foods. The conversion, which costs roughly \$3 million per store, is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

Dominick's and Kimco Realty are trying to find replacement tenants for the stores it is closing, and employees will have an opportunity to work at one of the larger lifestyle stores. The Downers Grove EDC will also be working aggressively in partnership with Dominick's and Kimco to locate an appropriate tenant for the space. Mr. Al Duran, VP of Operations for Dominick's parent Company Safeway Inc. is a member of the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

For additional information please contact the Economic Development Corporation at 630-729-0380 or email gbedalov@dgedc.com