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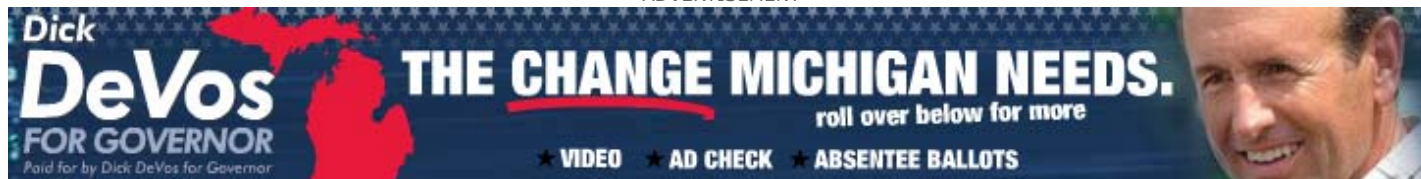
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## Mall holds grand opening

By Jim Totten  
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

Local residents strolled through Barnes & Noble on Thursday to check out the huge bookstore in relative peace before grand opening madness was expected to sweep over Green Oak Township's new mall, Green Oak Village Place, today.

"We've been watching it for a while," Richard Ziats said about the progress of the mall, which is Livingston County's largest.

Ziats and his wife, Elizabeth, who live in Green Oak, visited Barnes & Noble for the first time on Thursday, one day after the 27,000-square-foot bookstore opened.

The mall's grand opening is scheduled for today at 9:45 a.m.

Ziats said he likes browsing through the sale items and the music department. He

was impressed with the open layout of the store and the "old downtown"

⊕ Zoom Photo



atmosphere of the mall.

Ziats said having Barnes & Noble in the township would save him from making trips to the Novi area for bookstores. Although he has shopped at the Borders in Brighton, he said he found more sale books at Barnes & Noble.

"I'm pleased," township resident Joe Comps said during his first visit to the new bookstore. "I enjoy browsing bookstores of any ilk.

"Barnes & Noble has a comprehensive and wide selection, which is neat."

Lisa Kargol, general store manager, said the store has 200,000 books covering a range of topics, including health, science and sports, a collection of games, and a large music and DVD section.

"The difference with Barnes & Noble is the depth of our titles," Kargol, a Fenton resident who used to manage Home Depot stores, said.

Kargol said the store provides a relaxing place to browse for books, with two seating areas, a cafe and a children's area featuring a stage for story sessions.

Kargol said the store had no problem hiring people who love books, reading and music. She said 600 people applied for positions at the store, which ended up hiring 70 employees.

Sean Valentino, general manager of Green Oak Village Place, said the owners were hoping for at least 1,000 people to visit the mall during its grand opening, but he said it all depends on the weather.

"We welcome anyone that wants to come out here," Valentino said.

In addition to the 40 stores opening in Phase One, Valentino said there would be an estimated 30 stores opening in Phases Two and Three in 2007.

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Photo by GILLIS BENEDICT/DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

Tracy Scroggins of Howell shops at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at Green Oak Village Place.

#### MALL HIGHLIGHTS


- A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 9:45 a.m. today at the first interior fountain in Green Oak Village Place. The first 500 people to show up will receive a gift card worth \$20.
- Grand-opening activities will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Brighton High School marching band, clowns, face-painters, temporary-tattoo artists, balloon artists, stilt-walkers, magicians and DJs will provide entertainment throughout the day, and there also will be carnival games and popcorn.
- The 550,000-square-foot mall is the largest in the county.

**STORYCHAT**

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It's located at Lee and Fieldcrest roads, just east of U.S. 23 in Green Oak Township.

- Stores that are open: Aeropostale, American Eagle Outfitters, Ann Taylor, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Buffalo Wild Wings, C.J. Bank, Chico's, The Children's Place, Christopher & Banks, Claire's, Coldwater Creek, DEB Shops, Dick's Sporting Goods, DSW Shoes, Go Gear, J. Jill, Johnny Carino's Italian restaurant, Jos. A. Bank, Journey's, Justice, Kay (Sterling) Jewelers, Lane Bryant, Little Archies restaurant, Nails and More, Old Navy, Pacific Sunwear, Select Comfort, Sports Clips, Talbot's, Ulta Cosmetics, Victoria's Secret, White House/Black Market and Yankee Candle
- Yet to open: Cold Stone Creamery, JC Penney (February 2007), Men's Wearhouse, O'Callaghan's Irish Pub, Salsarita's restaurant



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