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Duxbury Clipper

Foodie's Prepares for Fall Opening ✓

By ADAM SWIFT

The shopping carts aren't quite ready to roll at the new Foodie's Duxbury Market, but grocery store-starved local shoppers can look forward to a fall opening for the new store.

"There are no concrete plans for an opening date right now, but we're thinking it will be some time in late October," said Foodie's marketing director, Elizabeth Cornaro.

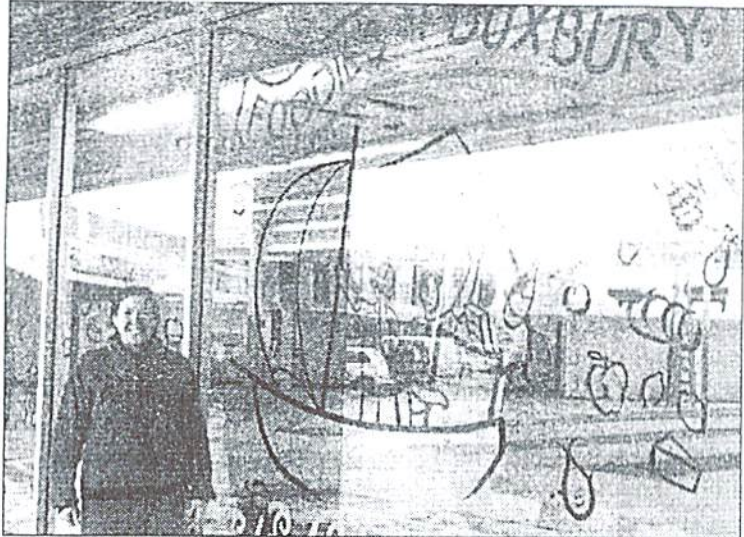
Foodie's Market is taking over the empty A&P/Grand Union building on Depot Street, which has been vacant for nearly four years. In March, Victor Leon announced his intentions to renovate the vacant 20,000-square-foot space and open his second Foodie's market. Leon has owned Foodie's Urban Market in the South End for a decade.

The \$1.4-million renovation project is going well, Cornaro said. Currently, contractors are sinking the plumbing and pipes for the market's new refrigerated and freezer cases.

Work is also underway to staff the market.

"We've put out a lot of help-wanted ads, and right now, we're just collecting applications," Cornaro said. "We'll probably start calling people around the end of September or the beginning of October."

Response has been especially good from local teenagers.



Elizabeth Cornaro of Foodie's Market stands in front of a window at the Foodie's Market Duxbury, slated to open in late October.

[at the South End store] that we don't have enough room for some really great products," Cornaro said. "There will also be more local products [in Duxbury]. We've been in contact with several people on the South Shore who are involved with food."

Cornaro described Foodie's as a cross between Trader Joe's, Whole Foods Market, and a traditional grocery store.

The store will feature an extensive prepared foods section as well as top-of-the-line produce, meat, deli, cheese, and bakery sections. Thanks to a recent decision by the Board of Selectmen, Foodie's will also be allowed to sell beer and wine.

"It's a nicer way to shop," Cornaro said. "The customers are directly involved in what

we sell."

Customers can feel free to suggest products they would like to see in the store, Cornaro said, adding that the suggestion box at the South End store is typically stuffed to overflowing.

"I think we're going to be a store that is very much a part of the community," she said. "We've done a lot of work with local organizations already."

The South End Foodie's is open Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Hours for the Duxbury location have yet to be set, Cornaro said, but an earlier opening is being considered in order to make the store more accessible to commuters before they hit the road.

"It's a good first job to see how a business is run and to work in customer service," Cornaro said.

No final determination has been made on how many employees will be stocking shelves and ringing registers at the new Foodie's, Cornaro said, but she said the South End location has 40 employees for a store that's only half as big as the Duxbury market will be.

The larger store means not only more opportunities for employment, but also more choices for shoppers.

"Our buyers are already looking at the shelving to figure out what they want to buy there," Cornaro said. The new store will carry more products than the South End location, and will also offer a selection of local products.

"We're always frustrated