

Red Barn Market to open grocery store near legislature

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Artist's rendering of the new Red Barn Market at Menzies and Michigan streets. The store is expected to open in January 2018.
Photograph By Maxwell Webster, Capital Park

Red Barn Market will open a 6,000-square-foot grocery store and deli in the new Capital Park development near the legislature in James Bay.

Red Barn Market partner Rus Benwell said the store is expected to open in January 2018. It is the first commercial tenant in the massive office/residential/retail complex on the 6.2-acre site bordering Superior, Menzies and Michigan streets developed by Concert Properties and Jawl Development.

City council is expected to approve a new branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library at Capital Park today.

"With the new library and new government offices there, we anticipate James Bay will be a great location for us," said Benwell. "We will offer our full-service sandwich bar, all of our smokehouse offerings, ice cream and full produce and grocery."

Capital Park will be the seventh location for Victoria-based Red Barn, controlled by partners Benwell, Peter Hansen, Ashley Bourque and Duncan Davies.

The company announced this year it was taking over a former government liquor store in Esquimalt on Admirals Road. That project is currently in the development permit stage, but has been hailed as a major revitalization project in Esquimalt's core.

The Admirals store is expected to open in February. It is also 6,000 square feet on the main floor, but has a basement of equal size that will be the grocer's main warehouse to feed its store shelves.

Red Barn's flagship Vanalman Avenue location in Saanich — its main warehouse and smokehouse operation, will undergo a \$1.5-million renovation and warehousing will eventually move to Esquimalt, said Benwell.

Red Barn's most recent opening was last year on Oak Bay Avenue. It also has stores in West Saanich, Latoria Walk in Colwood and at Mattick's Farm — the latter another development by Victoria's Jawl family who are well known for putting local businesses and companies into their building projects.

"We've had a great relationship with the Jawls," said Benwell. "And we're getting great community response from our shoppers."