

Today's Deal! DealChicken.com  83% off a 4 or 6 Night Stay at Cerritos Surf Colony in Todos Santos, Mexico! [Click here to sign up to receive great deals like this one via email. A new deal hatches EVERY DAY!](#) Deal available for purchase online today only.

ADVERTISEMENT

[Sign up](#) [Log in](#) [eEdition](#) [Stay Connected](#) [Customer Service](#) [Shopping](#) [Homes](#) [Jobs](#) [Cars](#) [Classifieds](#) [Advertise](#)

Business

TRENDING TOPICS [URBAN MEYER](#) [ELIZABETH TAYLOR](#) [TIME PERSON OF YEAR](#) [BRANDON KNIGHT](#) [LIGHT RAIL](#) [ROBERT FICANO](#) [COBO CENTER](#)

[Home](#) [Biz](#) [Business](#)

DECEMBER 14, 2011 AT 1:00 AM

Detroit Meijer project aided, Whitney redevelopment OK'd

BY JACLYN TROP AND LOUIS AGUILAR THE DETROIT NEWS 8 COMMENTS



Ellen Busch of Ada stows her purchases. Detroit is closer to getting a Meijer store with the approval Tuesday of a \$6.1 million tax incentive. (Todd McInturf / The Detroit News)

Detroit received good economic news Tuesday with the approval of two sets of tax breaks for the city's first Meijer store and the redevelopment of four buildings in downtown.

"Old plants and downtowns are reviving and major retailers are seeing opportunities in Detroit," Michigan Economic Development Corp. President and CEO Michael Finney said in a statement.

The Michigan Economic Growth Authority board approved a \$6.1 million brownfield redevelopment tax incentive so Grand Rapids-based supermarket and general merchandiser Meijer Inc. could proceed with its plan to anchor the Shoppes at Gateway Park. The long-awaited retail center is proposed for the southeast corner of Woodward and Eight Mile.

The total investment by Meijer, property developers and others would exceed \$71 million, according to the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

[Recommend](#) 14

[Tweet](#) 3

0

[EMAIL](#)

[PRINT](#)

[SHARE](#)

AA

Your best prospects are right here.

09373433

BUSINESS CONTACTS AND GROWING

Search for free:

[> Find Contacts](#)

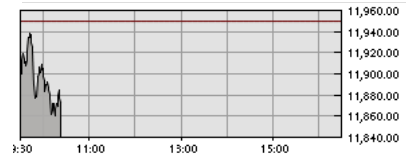
Or earn credits:

[> Trade Contacts](#)

provided by bizjournals

ADVERTISEMENT

Dow NYSE NASDAQ S&P 500



The overall project is expected to create 900 jobs, including 300 temporary construction jobs, the agency said. Meijer anticipates adding 291 full-time and part-time positions at the new store, mostly positions paying between \$11.75 and \$17.25 an hour.

The Shoppes at Gateway Park would be the largest retail development in Detroit in 40 years, according to the Detroit Economic Growth Corp.

But a Meijer spokesman said the project is far from a done deal.

"First, this is a developer-driven project, and there are several items that need to occur before this is a confirmed Meijer project," said Frank Guglielmi. "To say this is a confirmed project for Meijer is premature."

George Jackson, president of the city's quasi-public development agency, is more optimistic. He told The Detroit News last month that the Gateway Park Meijer will come to fruition along with a proposed Meijer at the former Redford High School.

Jackson added the opening of Meijer would attract more big-box stores to Detroit.

The state also approved four brownfield tax credits valued at a combined \$17.45 million for the development of four mixed-use commercial and residential buildings.

The largest tax incentive of \$9.8 million was approved for the redevelopment of the David Whitney Building into a boutique hotel and other uses. The state projects the plan to invest \$65.3 million and create 75 jobs.

Aloft Hotel, part of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, announced earlier this week it would join Troy-based hotel investment firm Trans Inns Management Inc. and Detroit-based the Roxbury Group in the project.

The rehabilitated Daniel Burnham-designed David Whitney at 1533 Woodward Avenue is scheduled to open by July 2014 with 136 loft-like rooms.

A consortium of agencies led by the Detroit Economic Growth Corp. received \$7.6 million in tax incentives for the rehabilitation of three buildings in the Capitol Park area: the former United Way Building at 1212 Griswold; the Capitol Park Building at 1145 Griswold; and The Farwell facility at 1249 Griswold.

The consortium still hasn't decided on the winning bidders for the three buildings.

A bidder who was interviewed recently by the holders of the Capitol Park properties was Fred Beal, president of J.C. Beal Construction. Inc. The Detroit company is partnering with Denver-based Tryba Architects for a pitch that includes a mix of retail and residential housing as well as a strategy to engage the community to boost the entire tri-angular Capitol Park enclave, Beal said.

"I'm convinced the real appeal of our proposal is that we have included a consultant who knows how to attract national retailers into core downtown districts that are still facing challenges," he said.

The long-range plan would include a mix of local and national retailers in the area.

The tax approvals Tuesday were the last brownfield redevelopment tax credits the state plans to use, an MEDC spokesman confirmed. The state agency is moving to a new program of tax breaks, loans and grants.

jtrop@detnews.com

(313) 222-2575

MORE ON THIS TOPIC



Join the Conversation

POLICIES

- [Community Policy](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)

GREAT DEAL!

SPECIAL OFFER

for new subscribers!

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Detroit News

ADVERTISEMENT

Events Calendar

- Holiday Trees**

Thursday, Dec 22, 10:00 am

The Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak
- Holiday Nights in...**

Thursday, Dec 22, 6:30 pm

Greenfield Village - Tree Farm, Dearborn
- epiphany glass studio...**

Saturday, Dec 24, 12:00 pm

Epiphany Glass Studio, Pontiac

Add an Event | [More](#)

14 Wed	15 Thu	16 Fri	17 Sat	18 Sun	All events
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---------------

- [Top events](#)
[Music](#)
[Sports & Outdoors](#)
[Restaurants](#)
- [Performing Arts](#)
[Community](#)
[Detroit events](#)
[Movies](#)

Most Popular

- Urban Meyer a recruiting threat for Michigan State, Michigan
- National media turning bullish on Lions
- Ficano: \$350K for legal costs
- Pistons rookie Brandon Knight boosting team's energy
- Detroit Meijer project aided, Whitney redevelopment OK'd