

Supervisors OK Giant expansion

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Giant will expand into space that's now a Rite Aid, and the pharmacy will move into a new building at Summit Square.

Giant will be more giant after the latest stage of renovations at the Summit Square shopping center was approved by the Middletown supervisors.

The board at a recent meeting approved an amended final plan for an expansion of the Giant (formerly Clemens) supermarket at the center, located at Route 413 and the Newtown Bypass.

According to the plan, the 31,800-square-foot Giant will take over an adjacent 14,000 square feet that's now a Rite Aid pharmacy and also construct a new addition of almost 9,000 square feet.

The Rite Aid will move into a new standalone building being constructed at the center. Space next to the Rite Aid that's home to two stores will be demolished to make room for more parking spaces for Giant, and the two stores will move into a new two-story office-retail building that's been built at Summit Square.

Approval of the Giant expansion was contingent on construction of an 8-foot-high privacy fence between the center and a nearby residential development. Also, Giant must erect a temporary fence to prevent construction debris from blowing into the development.

Charles Marte, the attorney representing Giant on the project, said the expansion will put this Giant more in line with the chain's new stores and with modern supermarkets.

"Giant wants what all supermarkets want, more space so it can offer its customers more choices," he said.

Landscaping to be done as part of the supermarket's expansion will reduce total pavement area at the center by about 1 percent, Giant representatives said.

Store officials are hoping to start the expansion late this year or early 2010 and finish sometime in 2011, Giant spokeswoman Tracy Pawelski said.

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