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AARON SUDHOLT PHOTO

Maryville officials and Walgreens corporate executives open the new Walgreens on Route 162 Friday morning. The store is the first national retailer in the village.

Maryville's new retail reality

By **AARON SUDHOLT**

ASUDHOLT@YOURJOURNAL.COM

A foundering economy hasn't stopped Maryville from getting its first national retailer.

Less than a year after having its construction permit approved, a new Walgreens opened Friday morning for business at Illinois routes 159 and 162.

"Our core business is the everyday essentials," said Walgreens District No. 289 Manager Chuck Berry. "The need for convenient, quality health care services are not impacted in a challenge economic environment."

The village in February had to issue a special permit for the store because plans called for a drive-through window and special landscaping that deviated from regular village zoning rules.

Developer Koman Properties of St. Louis demolished the Redz Rib Shack restaurant that had been at the corner.

The Walgreens is 14,820 square feet and has the same design as the Deerfield, Ill.-based company's stores at Illinois Route 159 and Cottonwood Road in Glen Carbon and the projected design of the new one

Walgreens opens Friday

at Route 162, Troy Boulevard and Dorothy Drive in Troy.

It takes up 3.87 acres in the new Maryville Shopping Center. Village Building and Zoning Director Kevin Flaughter said no other developments have been approved for the retail complex yet.

"We're glad they chose us and we hope it's the first step of some other things in the surrounding vicinity," said Mayor Larry Gullede.

Berry said that the store has limited hours because demographic studies had shown the Glen Carbon location, which is a 24-hour store, met local needs.

The Troy Walgreens is scheduled for completion this summer.

About Walgreens

The Maryville Walgreens location is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. It is at Illinois routes 159 and 162.