

Retail Openings

February 18, 2011

Ollie's Bargain Outlet continue to expand. The company opened its first Triangle location in March 2009 and is preparing to open a second in Durham's Willowdale shopping center at Guess and Horton roads. Ollie's will take the spot that used to be occupied by Harris Teeter, before the grocer opened a brand-new store directly across Horton Road. A company spokeswoman said Ollie's Bargain Outlet is tentatively scheduled to open in late June.

In Wake Forest, the new **Harris Teeter** store opened Wednesday at 13686 Capital Blvd.

The **Rita's Water Ice** stores in Cary, Raleigh and Durham will reopen today at noon after their annual winter hiatus.

Retail Closings

February 25, 2011

After 61 years in business on Peace Street in Raleigh, **Raleigh's Lighting Inc.** is closing. The decline in housing construction locally was finally too much to bear. Lighting Inc. is having a clearance sale with all items at 30 percent off. Owner Wink Montague said he's not sure when exactly the store will close, but he expects it to be in the next two months.

In Wake Forest, the **Texas Steakhouse & Saloon** restaurant closed this week. The company said the restaurant did not meet long-term business expectations. There are still 26 Texas Steakhouse locations in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, including in Morrisville, Smithfield, Wilson and Rocky Mount.

Retail News

February 25, 2011

After five years at the Lassiter at North Hills in Raleigh, **J. Alane's Fine Lingerie** has relocated to Cary. Tim Hendricks, who owns the shop with his wife, Julie, said the new store is larger and allows them to better serve their growing Triangle customer base. The new store is in the Arboretum, at Harrison Avenue and Weston Parkway. The address is 2065 Renaissance Park Place.

Jobs/Economy/Housing

February 22, 2011

Industrial conglomerate **Eaton Corp.**, which already employs nearly 3,000 people across the state, is expanding its auto-parts facility in Roxboro. The company announced Monday that it plans to create 120 jobs over the next four years as it ramps up production of components that help vehicles improve fuel efficiency. The Cleveland-based company will pay average annual salaries of \$35,875, above the Person County average of \$32,136.

ConAgra will close its Garner Slim Jim factory in May and lay off hundreds of remaining workers, nearly two years after an explosion damaged the facility and killed four people. ConAgra plans to lay off about 235 employees on or about April 16, according to a notice filed with the N.C. Department of Commerce last week under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. The plant is scheduled to close May 27, and about 200 remaining employees will be let go or transferred by then, spokesman Dave Jackson said Monday. After reaching a deal with the union that represents hourly employees, ConAgra agreed to provide severance, outplacement services, job retraining and performance incentives to help workers with the transition, he added.

February 25, 2011

The U.S. Air Force's award of a \$35 billion contract to **Boeing** to build refueling tankers will bring about 100 jobs to North Carolina. Various assemblies would be built by subcontractors in Greensboro, Wilson, Shelby and Monroe. North Carolina's contribution to the Boeing tanker will include gearboxes, transmissions, braking mechanisms, fire suppressors and hydraulic fluid filtration assemblies. Boeing employed 295 people in North Carolina, as of last June.

Business News

February 25, 2011

BioCryst Pharmaceuticals has been awarded an additional \$55 million from the federal government to complete the development of its experimental treatment for seriously ill flu patients. "This is the money that will get us to the finish line," Jon Stonehouse, CEO of the Durham company, said during a conference call with analysts this morning. The \$55 million contract extension from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services comes on top of \$179.6 million in prior government contracts for the development of peramivir. The company's funding has been extended an additional 24 months to Dec. 31, 2013. Last fall, BioCryst announced it shifted its headquarters from Birmingham, Ala., to Durham. The company currently has 33 workers in Durham and expects to have 45 by mid-year.