

Groundbreaking Held for Broadway K-Mart

On April 1st, over 200 people witnessed the groundbreaking of the new K-mart Department store to be located at 998 Broadway, the former Sattler's site. Many local dignitaries were on hand to commemorate this special occasion including; County Executive Dennis Gorski, Buffalo Mayor James Griffin, Councilmember David Franczyk, and City Comptroller Joel Giambra. This event marked the culmination of a lengthy campaign to lure the national retail giant into the Broadway-Fillmore area.

Construction costs are estimated to be at \$5 million dollars and will provide jobs for 175 part and full time employees. Eighty of these positions will be for the construction that will be done at the site. Development will be provided by The Benchmark Corporation located in Amherst.

"Its the kind of store people have been hoping for the past ten years," according to Councilmember David Franczyk. "Now we've finally got it. This should be a boon for the Broadway market."

Working to attain a K-mart for the area since 1986 was the Reed and Ten Adjoining Streets Watch Committee. They were the first to contact K-mart about putting a department store in the neighborhood and at the 998 Broadway lot according to Sister Mary Augusta Kaiser, who helps to direct the Watch Committee.

"People really felt there was a need for a department store at the time," commented Sr. Mary Augusta Kaiser. "People were talking about the fact that if you didn't have a car, you really couldn't even buy a spool of thread. This was right after Neisner's had closed and before Family Dollar moved in."

To help meet the need in the neighborhood, they contacted K-mart and started the ball rolling. With the help of Councilmember Franczyk, they were finally successful in getting K-Mart into the area.

"People are really excited about the store," said Sister



Groundbreaking at 998 Broadway. From Left: County Executive Dennis Gorski; Mayor James Griffin; Mr. Tombak (of Tombak's Bakery), Councilmember Clifford Bell; Councilmember David Franczyk and City Comptroller, Joel Giambra

Mary Augusta Kaiser. "Everyone is really looking forward to it."

The K-Mart will provide 90,000 square feet of shopping mania and will be the closest K-Mart to the downtown area. Included in the plans is a parking lot to provide spaces for 360 cars. Neighbors and retailers are hoping that the K-Mart will attract people into the Broadway Fillmore area and provide business for the Broadway Market as well as other retailers in the area.

"I think it says a lot for this city when we're in the midst of a recession," said Franczyk, "and we're still able to bring a store like this in."

Project completion is targeted for November and K-Mart is planning to open in doors in time for Thanksgiving.

"Its good to see something positive happening in the Broadway-Fillmore area," commented Councilmember Franczyk. "We've been needing something like this for a while now."