



City leases historic Savage Depot

DP Coffee Depot coming soon to downtown Savage

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Next stop: caffeine central station.

No trains will be rolling through the historic Savage Depot at its new location downtown, but there will be plenty of coffee.

Savage City Council approved a five-year lease Jan. 16 with Annette Grant, who plans to open DP Coffee Depot, a coffee shop, in the depot this spring.

Grant, a Savage resident and third-grade teacher at M.W. Savage Elementary, will pay no rent for the first six months of the lease and about \$1,070 per month, or \$12,870 annually, thereafter. The lease has two five-year renewal options.

The depot, which was relocated from Murphy's Landing in Shakopee to Savage's downtown Hamilton District in July, still requires some renovation by the city before Grant can set up shop. Siding, insulation and the electrical system are being put in, and the depot still needs flooring, heating and ventilation, as well as landscaping.

The city intends to turn control of the building over to Grant in "a few months," and it's anticipated that DP Coffee Depot would open its doors in April or May, according to Assistant City Administrator Scott Somers.

The city's hope is that the coffee shop will help create a pedestrian-friendly "sidewalk culture" in the Hamilton District," Somers said.

DP Coffee Depot "will provide kind of an anchor downtown" that draws both motorists on Highway 13 and residents of the Hamilton District, he added.

The depot lease is one piece of the city's downtown revitalization puzzle. Last year the city signed a lease with Savage Art Studios for space in the Hamilton Building on West 123rd Street, and the creation of the Savage Arts Council, based at the studios, soon followed. And starting next June the city will host a farmers' market downtown.

"The depot combined with the Arts Council and the farmers' market will hopefully create a synergy that will spur some redevelopment in that area," Somers said.

Built in 1880, the Savage Depot is known for being one of the last standing buildings that was frequented by Marion W. Savage, the turn-of-the-century entrepreneur after whom the city of Savage is named.

Murphy's Landing bought the depot in the early 1970s and brought it to Shakopee. Officials at Three Rivers Park District, which assumed ownership of the depot in 2000, determined they couldn't afford to maintain it and agreed to give it back to the city of Savage. The relocation effort was a joint venture between the city and the Savage-based Dan Patch Historical Society.

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