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New East Bay artisan food hall, Castro Valley Marketplace, makes its debut

Natural grocery, butcher shop and bakery are the first tenants to open at former Daughtrey's site



Originally set to launch last summer, the Castro Valley Marketplace has finally opened with three inaugural tenants and many more to come.

By **LINDA ZAVORAL** | lzavoral@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

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Years in the planning, the [Castro Valley Marketplace](#) — the first Alameda County food hall south of Oakland — has finally made its debut.

The first tenants to open at what was a local landmark — the former Daughtrey's department store — are the Castro Valley Natural Grocery, Barons Quality Meats & Seafood and the Seven Hills Baking Co.

Scheduled to open before the end of summer are the Oaktown Spice Shop, Amphora Nueva Olive Oil Works and four new restaurant-bars.

Launching a business of this magnitude during a pandemic meant dealing with additional health and safety requirements, the owners and tenants said.

“Our team came together and learned how to meet the challenge head on, with the determination and responsibility that taking on the new title of “essential business” required,” Randall Owczarzak, general manager of East Bay Natural Grocers, said in a statement. “We know that the area has some good options, but was strained and did not have enough like what we offer. We felt like we needed to open, and do so as soon as we safely could.”

The three inaugural tenants are food purveyors with deep roots in the East Bay.

— The Castro Valley Natural Grocery, part of East Bay Natural Grocers, anchors the street level. Donna Layburn, originally a vitamin shop owner, created the Alameda Marketplace on the site of a former car dealership in that city in 2003.

— Butcher David Samiljan launched his Barrons Quality Meats at the Alameda Marketplace in 2005 and then expanded to San Francisco in 2016. He specializes in sustainably sourced meat and poultry.

— The Seven Hills Baking Co., an artisanal bread and pastry bakery, is owned by industry veteran Julien Wagner.

Hours of business for this soft opening are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, with seniors/at risk shopping hour at 8 a.m. Evening hours will be added later.

Details: 3295 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley;
www.castrovalleymarketplace.com



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Linda Zavoral is a Features reporter and editor who writes about restaurants, libations, travel and the arts for the Eat Drink Play and Eye/Timeout sections. She's a Bay Area native and a San Jose State University journalism graduate. Her previous roles at the Mercury News include Lowell Thomas award-winning editor of the Travel section, Alameda County bureau chief and Getting Ahead editor.

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