



Media Release

Big R Stores Opens Its Doors in Homer Glen

Watseka-Based Chain Opens First Chicagoland Location

Homer Glen, IL (May 15, 2015)

Big R Stores, a regionally owned retail chain, launched its grand opening weekend in the Village of Homer Glen with a ribbon cutting on Friday, May 15th. Located at the prominent corner of Bell Road and 159th Street, with easy access to Interstate I-355, Big R offers a wide array of goods to the Homer Glen trade area, including family apparel and footwear, sporting goods, camping equipment, pet and farm supplies, lawn and garden supplies, auto, tools, electrical, plumbing and heating, housewares, paint, toys and a service and rental center. The Homer Glen store features popular brands, such as Carhartt and Under Armour apparel, Cub Cadet and Stihl power equipment. Hours of operation for the Homer Glen store are seven days a week, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Homer Glen location is the first that the company has opened in the Chicago metro area, expanding the current chain to 17 locations. Big R Stores were first established in Watseka, Illinois in 1964. The company has served their communities faithfully in east central Illinois and west central Indiana for over fifty years, employing over 750 people. The newest Big R store has created 45 new jobs in Homer Glen. The Homer Glen community stands to gain more than just new jobs. Officials estimate that the new Big R Store will generate over \$100,000 in 1% sales tax revenue for the community each year.

“The new Big R store will help the Village to capture important retail sales currently spent in other Will County communities,” said Mayor George Yukich. “Big R breathes new life into the former Kmart property, at one of our busiest intersections, and will draw new retail customers to Homer Glen from up to 30 miles away.”

“The Morris store is doing really well, and we saw an opportunity to continue investing in the Chicago community,” said Big R CEO Jerry Gibbs. “It’s a great feeling to bring our family-run stores to the south suburbs while creating new jobs.” Gibbs went on to say, “We want to make sure that we always take care of our customers. We want to make sure each customer’s dollar is well spent and that they leave Big R happy and satisfied.”

About Big R Stores: Big R Stores, a chain of 17 farm and ranch supply stores with over 750 employees, was founded in Watseka, Illinois by Bill and Pat Crabtree in 1964 and remains headquartered in Watseka to this day. Big R is part of the Big R Group, a group of 75 independently-owned and operated stores across the United States. Jerry Gibbs has been with Big R Stores over 40 years and provides family leadership as the CEO. The closest Big R store to Homer Glen is located in Morris, Illinois, about 38 miles away. Other stores near Homer Glen include Watseka, Rochelle, Pontiac, and Michigan City, Indiana.

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For more information, contact Economic Development Director Janie Patch at (708) 301-0632.

PHOTOS ATTACHED