

No timeline for opening of O'Reilly Auto Parts

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By Nick Baptista

O'Reilly Auto Parts is moving closer to opening a store in Valley Springs.

The Springfield, Mo.-based chain, which has more than 4,200 stores in 42 states, has property for the new location at 161 Highway 26 and recently filed a Fictitious Business Name Statement with the Calaveras County Clerk's Office.

Mark Merz, O'Reilly's director of external reporting and investor relations, said it was too soon in the process to give any sort of timeline or say when the store will open.

The company usually waits until a store is about 60 days away from completion before it sets an opening date, he added.

Generally speaking, an O'Reilly store is about 6,600 square feet and has a mixture of eight to 12 full- and part-time employees, or "team members," he said.

Those employees will include a store manager, assistant manager, parts professionals, drivers and other positions working a variety of shifts as the store will be open from the morning to later in the evening seven days a week.

The team will include a mixture of current O'Reilly employees and new hires from the area, Merz said. The manager is being trained at another location and as the Valley Springs store moves closer to completion a "now hiring" sign will be posted at the site with a phone number to call for interviews.

Prospective employees can also complete applications online or walk in, he added.

In addition to O'Reilly's, AutoZone is working to place a store in Valley Springs. AutoZone last month got approval from the county Board of Supervisors to move forward with its plans, but needs approval for direct access off State Route 26 from CalTrans.

For many years Valley Springs has been served by NAPA Auto Parts on State Route 12.