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## Town Centre signs Von Maur for Joliet

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JOLIET -- A Von Maur is coming to the Bridge Street Town Centre, a \$1 billion lifestyle mall planned for the city's west side.

Mall developer O&S Holdings announced Wednesday that the store will be an anchor tenant for the project, which is slated for construction next year.

The family-owned department store has signed a letter of intent, according to an O&S press release. The Joliet location would be the third store in Will County if all previously announced Von Maur projects go forward.

A Von Maur is coming to The Shops at the Polo Club in Plainfield and The Birches at New Lenox (two proposed malls that will be constructed in the future), according to previous announcements by Von Maur executives.

Joliet officials were thrilled to hear about the higher end retail store's plans to locate in their city, too.

Von Maur is a premier retailer a step above a Carson's store and equal to a Macy's, said City Manager Tom Thanas.

"Bridge Street has shown that it has the ability to attract quality tenants," Thanas said. "That's the whole idea of the Bridge Street Town Centre, offering an option to Joliet residents to stay in our area and shop at premier retailers. We no longer have to drive into another county."

Terry McEwen, president of Poag and McEwen, developer of The Shops at the Polo Club, said the Joliet and Plainfield Von Maur stores' territories will overlap slightly.

"This is a little closer than typical," he said.

But McEwen added that the Plainfield store would serve a different demographic with higher incomes because it is on the Naperville-Plainfield border. He also said the Von Maur at the Polo Club would probably have a higher line of merchandise.

McEwen said Von Maur has signed a reciprocal easement, which is similar to a lease but the company will own the property.

"They have a totally binding commitment to us," he said.

Von Maur officials couldn't be reached Wednesday to comment on whether all three stores will go forward as planned.