



## Circle K to arrive at Toyota Park



The above is an artist's rendering of the Circle K convenience store and gas station that will be located at Toyota Park.

Staff Reporter  
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Bridgeview Mayor Steven Landek announced Sunday that the village board has approved the sale of land for a new Toyota Park retailer.

Circle K, a national owner and operator of gas stations and convenience stores, will open its second Bridgeview location later this year, Landek said. The company already has a location at 87th Street and Harlem Avenue.

Circle K officials said they made their decision based on locating near Toyota Park, where they believe they see benefits to their company.

"With over 300,000 people each year coming to Toyota Park, Circle K wants to provide fuel and a first-class convenience center," Landek said.

"Building a strong retail base at Toyota Park has always been our priority," Landek said. "But the economic downslide over the years has caused unexpected delays in reaching those objectives. We have seen recently renewed interest from retail owners like Circle K as the economy slowly continues its recovery."

The new building, which is modeled after their newest location in Bolingbrook, will bring a new look to the corner of 71st Street and Harlem.

Its theme will reflect Bridgeview, Toyota Park and the Chicago Fire, Landek said.

The station will be built along Harlem just north of 71st and will provide "a new feel to users of the stadium" and will be boosted by the 70,000 cars and trucks that will travel past the new store location.

Unlike other Circle K fueling centers, this location will also fuel trucks to help serve the area's weekday industrial base. The center will be located near one of the busiest truck and train transfer centers in the

Midwest. During off times at the stadium, the additional traffic will be easy to handle, Landek said.

"On weekends, that customer base decreases and a whole new group of stadium users will enter the site," he said.

The project has been in the planning stages for many months, Landek said.

The Circle K center and a Pace suburban bus service transit center under construction at Toyota Park will provide the basis for future retail development in Bridgeview, Landek said.

Although retail development near Toyota Park was sidetracked during the economic downturn, there has been significant renewed interest in the site by developers and major retailers, Landek said.

Circle K is expected to be only the first of many announcements this year about new retail developments near the stadium.

"All money generated by the new retailer will be committed to pay stadium costs," Landek said.

"Our plan has always been to have the new retailers who benefit from the stadium to pay their share for the stadium," Landek said.

"The property taxes, fuel and business fees will help set us on that path," he said. "As future development occurs, the same philosophy will be followed. We will commit those funds to the stadium."

The multimillion dollar project is scheduled to begin construction this spring and the store is expected to be open by Labor Day. — *Southwest Suburban News-Herald*