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## Outdoor Supply Hardware to occupy former OSH location

By Vera Kochan



It didn't take long to fill the space vacated by Orchard Supply Hardware in Moraga roughly one year ago. The new occupant, Outdoor Supply Hardware, will offer the same type of products that do-it-yourselfers have come to expect from big-box hardware stores.

The new tenant, Central Network Retail Group, is a multi-brand retail company based in Tennessee that currently operates 104 hardware stores, home centers and lumberyards within 14 states. According to its website, while CNRG plans to stock the shelves with its own brand of merchandise it intends to honor the longstanding appeal that consumers had for Orchard. The newly created brand, Outdoor Supply Hardware, is the 16th in its line.

The new home of Outdoor Supply Hardware Photo Vera Kochan

The new chain's name was deliberately created to remind the public of the former Orchard hardware stores. The Moraga location at 1550 Canyon Road was

one of the final 99 stores closed by previous owner Lowe's. It was chosen by CNRG to be one of its pilot stores as the new OSH, because the previous store was profitable. OSH's Mike Knickerbocker, currently a store manager replied, "Naturally every company wants to select and operate in profitable locations. The people of Moraga welcomed this business model before, and with our expanded selections and services we look forward to being a part of this great community."

Intending to open seven stores in California, CNRG has planned another location in Napa. The Moraga OSH plans on staffing somewhere between 50-60 associates in full and part-time positions. Several former Orchard employees and managers are planning to return.

An opening date for Moraga is planned for this fall. "We will of course offer a great assortment of `core' type hardware needs. Nursery, garden supplies, electrical, plumbing, paint, houseware items, tools, fasteners, patio furniture and grills," stated Knickerbocker. He added, "We will offer new vendors and products from Stihl power equipment, Big Green Egg grills and expanded lumber. We will also, and are very excited to offer tool rental."

Knickerbocker concluded, "We are extremely fortunate and excited to be part of the Moraga and Napa communities. We look forward to providing a great experience for our customers and neighbors."

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