PROGRESS 2008

Hy-Vee: Find a helpful smile in every aisle

Hy-Vee Food Store's array of foods appeals to all palates from the ordinary to gourmet.

Hy-Vee stocks healthy, trendy and unique foods at affordable prices. If you are tired after a day on the job, you can buy something easy to fix. If you have some time on the weekend and want to fix something special, you can find all your ingredients in the Oskaloosa Hy-Vee Food Store.

For those who want something easy to make, the Oskaloosa Hy-Vee carries Soup Man soup, Dilusso sandwiches, sushi and Dilusso salads. If you have a snack attack and want chips and salsa, your hometown Hy-Vee carries 12 varieties of homemade salsa. If you are more discriminating in snacks, the Oskaloosa Hy-Vee carries take-and-bake European breads along with dipping oils, a variety of locally produced Tassel Ridge wines and about 200 gourmet cheeses.

Hy-Vee's fresh meat department features Angus beef, lamb, seafood and chicken. Also, the fresh meat counter features Dilusso shaved meats and cheeses. Hy-Vee has the largest variety of turkey — 14 Honeysuckle turkey varieties. Further, you can find unique items such as twice-baked potatoes and crab-stuffed mushrooms.

For those who have special diets, Hy-Vee carries glutten-free products such as pancake mixes, cereals, breads and pizza crusts. Hy-Vee also carries lines of whole-wheat pastas and organic items such as spaghetti sauces.

If you like ethnic food that you can fix yourself, Hy-Vee has an aisle dedicated to oriental, Mexican, authentic Hispanic and Italian foods.

If you want something to wet your whistle, Hy-Vee has a variety of drinks for sale. Hy-Vee carries 36 new varieties of Smokey Row coffee. Also, the store has 360 types of water and flavored water as well as soft drinks. In the wine and beer section, Hy-Vee carries Iowa-produced wines like Tassel Ridge and beer brewed at the Milstream Brewery in Amana. Hy-Vee stocks both domestic and imported beers.

But, Hy-Vee is more than just groceries.

Hy-Vee has a pharmacy and a recently expanded Health and Beauty section with 600 new items. Hy-Vee recently started a $4 generic prescription drug program with over 400 generic drugs available, you'll have the opportunity to save money while receiving the very best guidance from the best health team around — your Hy-Vee pharmacists.

"Hy-Vee is dedicated to being helpful and always looking for ways to make your life easier, healthier and happier. We hope our new generic drug program is just one more way we can continue to make you smile," Store Director Dan Fuller said.

The Oskaloosa Hy-Vee store also has a branch bank — Bank of the West — that's open seven days a week. Next to the bank is the Hy-Vee Kitchen where you can get food ranging from fresh meat and cheese trays to Chinese food. Also, Hy-Vee has a bakery that produces fresh pastries and cakes. Up front, Hy-Vee has a floral shop. If you want flowers to spruce up your home or office, or need something to brighten the day of someone special, the designers at the Hy-Vee Floral Department can find the perfect arrangement.

Currently, the Hy-Vee Floral Department offers the Spring Petaler bouquet and the FTD Touch of Spring bouquet.

Next to the floral department, there is a Red Box DVD rental stand where you can rent the latest Hollywood blockbusters, and a Coinstar change counter.

The Hy-Vee Food Store in Oskaloosa first opened its doors on April 10, 1940, and has served the community ever since.

The first location was at 309-311 High Ave. West and operated as the "Oskaloosa Supply Store" on a self-serve basis. It was the largest store to date — 40 feet by 70 feet.

The store relocated on July 24, 1953, to 1302 High Ave. W. The store was about 9,000 square feet, featured meat, produce and cheese displays, had a 45-car parking lot and a bowling alley in the basement.

On April 22, 1964, the store moved again to 1407 A Ave. West. The new store was 13,600 square feet and had a 100-car parking lot. It was only the second Hy-Vee store to have an electric rotisserie and holding oven for barbecuing chickens.

The store was remodeled on April 18, 1978, and a bakery and delicatessen were added.

The Hy-Vee store relocated again on Feb. 1, 1994, into the former Sernett's department store in Penn Central Mall at 110 South D St. It has 39,046 square feet of space, includes a branch bank and features a seafood/meat department and a floral shop. The Oskaloosa Family Pharmacy was acquired and merged with the store on March 1, 2004.

Hy-Vee has thrived in the Midwest for more than 70 years by following some fundamental principles: Attracting good people, sharing with their communities, doing business with honesty and integrity, being friendly, caring, sincere and showing respect to our employees and customers.

Hy-Vee is 100 percent employee owned.

The McNeill Stone Mansion celebrates 100 years of ornate and spacious splendor

The McNeill Stone Mansion is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. During its century of existence, what once was the ornate, spacious home of Wilbur and Lulu McNeill is now a bed and breakfast, located at 1282 C Ave. E. in Oskaloosa, presently owned and operated by Gary and Virginia Walker.

The three-story stone mansion is on a one-acre site. While the mansion's core is composed of Bedford limestone with concrete floors and brick walls, the mansion is sheathed in a variety of ornate decorations such as Mexican Tobasco Mahogany woodwork in the living room. The dining room features original silk tapestries and original brass-plated lights. The mansion's parlor features an 1880s chandelier and an 1894 mirror stands at the top of the stairs that leads to people's rooms.

The upstairs area is partially lighted by a stained glass sky light. The second floor of the mansion features three main rooms. All rooms have large beds with high-quality sheets, blankets and pillows for a comfortable night's sleep. The Royal Red Room features a bathroom with an original tub and sink. The Far East Room features a china tub and sink. Also, the McNeill Suite was the McNeill's original bedroom. The third floor of the mansion features a penthouse that used to be a ballroom.

While the rooms are ornate and give people a comfortable look into the past, the bed and breakfast also has a modern convenience — wireless Internet access in every room.

The McNeill Stone Mansion has a capacity for 10 guests. If travelers stay Thursday, Friday and Saturday, they will have a full breakfast. If they stay from Sunday through Wednesday, they will have an informal breakfast.

The McNeill Stone Mansion's guests range from average folks to business travelers, and this past December, former Vice President Walter Mondale was a guest during a campaign stop. People have stayed at the bed and breakfast for weddings, class reunions or to celebrate their anniversary.

The McNeill Stone Mansion also participates in benefits for the local hospice and has contributed to the Lighted Christmas Parade as well as charities such as the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

You do not need to stay overnight to enjoy the McNeill Stone Mansion, you can go on a tour of the mansion, but you have to have a group of at least 15 people.

People who want to book a stay at the McNeill Stone Mansion can make their reservations on-line. Also, the bed and breakfast has a Web site: www.thestonemansion.com

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