

Buy pets, supplies at Uncle Bill's Pet Center



IN THE BAG
A column by
**CINDY
LARSON**

WITHIN THE NEXT 30 days, a new pet store will open in the Village at Time Corners.

Uncle Bill's Pet Center, which has four stores in the Indianapolis area, will open its first Fort Wayne store at 6339 W.

Jefferson Blvd.

The privately held, full-line pet store will sell everything from dogs and cats to birds, fish (including saltwater), reptiles and even chinchillas, said Craig Curry, senior project manager.

The pet store will sell purebred dogs and also the popular "designer breeds," such as Yorkipoos, which are part Yorkshire terrier, part poodle.

The store also will sell pet food and pet-related accessories.

Asked where Uncle Bill's gets its dogs, Curry said, "They do not come from puppy mills." He said the company is USDA-certified, and it doesn't buy from any dealer who isn't USDA-certified.

A Google search on the Internet turned up mixed reviews from customers on Uncle Bill's. But according to the Indianapolis Better Business Bureau Web site, the business has a "satisfactory" rating.

Anyone thinking about buying an animal from Uncle Bill's - or anywhere, for that matter - should closely observe the animal and its surroundings and ask the seller plenty of questions before plunking down the money.

Once it's open, the store's hours will be 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. The phone number will be 436-9900, but it's not yet operational.

New source for books, music, movies

A new bookstore will open March 9, and this one buys and sells books, music and movies.

Half-Price Books, Records and Magazines (www.halfprice.com) See **LARSON**, Page 8F

books.com) is a chain retailer with four stores in the Indianapolis area. It sells new and used books, mostly at half the retail price, but exceptions are made for books that are signed by the author or out of print.

Right now the store is buying books; call 373-2140 for more information.

Store manager Dave Collins said it's store policy to make a cash offer on all books that are brought in. The better shape the books are in, the better the offer. If a seller has a bunch, a store employee will help carry them in.

The store also will buy and sell movies and music on CD, DVD and VHS tape as long as they are recorded legally, Collins said.

Half-Price Books will also sell used magazines, both current and back issues.

The store is now open to purchase material 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and customers are welcome to come in to browse, but Collins said the store won't start selling anything until March 9. It will be open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. March 12-15 for a grand-opening event.

Regular hours will be 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. The store is at 533 Coliseum Blvd. E., in the same shopping center as Carlos O'Kelly's.

Unusual shoes ...

Are your dogs barkin'? Then get your feet to Fred Toenges Shoes and Pedorthics, the exclusive north-east Indiana dealer for the newest high-tech line of **Z-Coil footwear**.

These shoes won't give Jimmy Choo any competition - with their exposed steel coil attached to the heel, they've just elevated orthopedic shoes to a whole new level. (Go to www.zcoil.com to see them.)

But if you've ever experienced chronic foot, leg or back pain that limits your ability to walk, this shoe could change your quality of life.

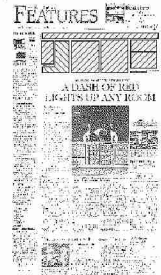
The coil reduces heel impact and a built-in orthotic equalizes pressure distribution, reducing the chance of developing heel spurs or plantar fasciitis. The shoe also is engineered with an inch of cushioning at the front.

Toenges says some feel immediate relief from the shoes, others feel relief more gradually and still others experience only a modicum of relief.

The Z-Coil footwear comes in many styles from athletic shoes to sandals, boots and dress shoes.

Fred Toenges is at 2415 Hobson Road. The phone number is 484-4742.

Know of a store opening, closing or remodeling? Find a good deal? Call Cindy Larson at 461-8284, fax 461-8817, e-mail clarson@news-sentinel.com or write to: In the Bag, C/O The News-Sentinel, PO Box 102, Fort Wayne, IN 46801.



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