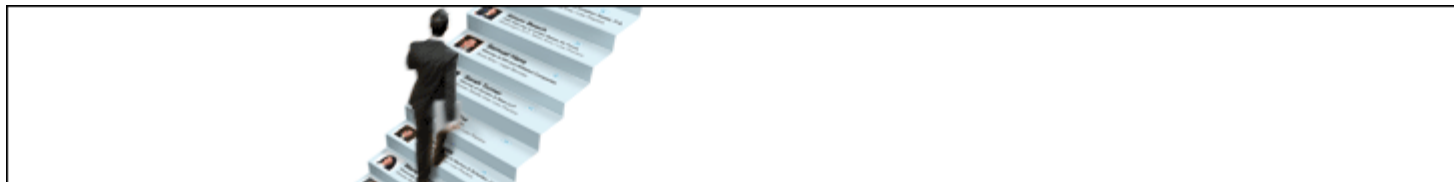


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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A local business owner is making plans to open two small neighborhood grocery stores at separate locations in Allston by next month.

One of the stores will take over about 1,800 square-feet of space that formerly housed a dental and eye care office at 205 Harvard Ave. near the intersection with Commonwealth Avenue.

The other market will comprise about 2,000 square feet and will replace a laundromat and real estate office at 1436

Commonwealth Ave. near where that thoroughfare meets with Warren and Kelton streets.

The two stores will each be named Cozmo Market and owner Omar Abuhasan said he hopes each location will open by Feb. 1.

Abuhasan said while the stores will offer some convenience items, he plans to focus on stocking groceries â€” including fruit, vegetables packaged meat and frozen foods â€” at his two stores, each of which are surrounded by heavily-populated residential areas that see high levels of pedestrian traffic.

He expects to hire about 10 employees across both stores.

The 46-year-old from the Boston area said by phone today that he had hoped to open the stores sooner, but progress has been slowed by the cityâ€™s permitting and licensing process that he has navigated since mid-September. He signed 15-year leases with the landlords of the two properties that month.

The owner said he has been a partner in running a set of small grocery and convenience stores in Boston, but the pair of soon-to-open Allston retail spots will be the first he will manage on his own.

A father of four daughters and one son, Abuhasan said heâ€™s hopeful his new businesses will help him save for his childrenâ€™s educations.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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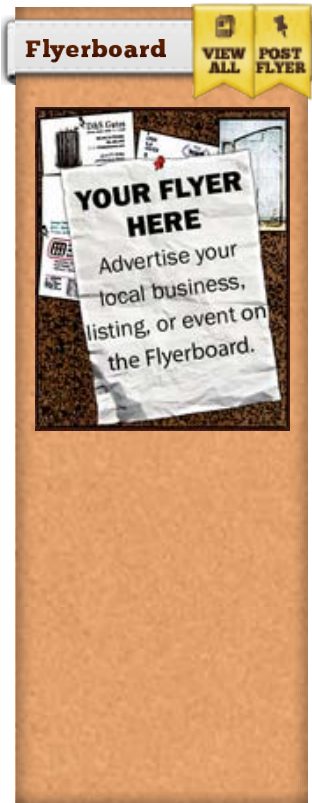
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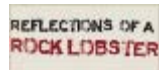


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