

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Over 60 Years

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Sparkle Market to Close at Union Square Plaza

Earlier today, the owner of the Sparkle Supermarket located in the Union Square Plaza (Belmont Avenue and Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio) reluctantly notified his employees that the store would close on July 31, 2010, after nearly forty (40) years of serving Youngstown's North side and Liberty Township. The owner, Charles Zander, indicated there were several factors that forced his decision to announce the closure. Most significantly, the recent opening of a WalMart Super Center nearby created enormous pressure within the competitive environment of the Belmont Business District. At the same time, the national trend by consumers to favor corporately owned grocery conglomerates has made it nearly impossible for independent grocers to compete in markets where quality and service are secondary to cut-rate product pricing. Despite economic concessions from his landlord and the union representing his workers, Mr. Zander reached the conclusion that he was unable to maintain a profitable business.

The Cafaro Company, whose affiliated business entity owns Union Square Plaza, is currently working with multiple potential tenants to occupy the location soon to be vacated. Union Square Plaza remains one of the City's most stable and viable shopping plaza's with notable national and local retailers including PNC Bank, Family Dollar, a State of Ohio License Agency, The Beverage House, Dale Dry Cleaners,

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Checksmart, and Unique Beauty Supply. It is our objective to maintain a quality grocery store to serve the people of the North Side of Youngstown and Liberty Township.

Parties who are interested in discussing leasing possibilities for the property should contact Mark Marini at The Cafaro Company, 330-747-2661 or

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