THE CAIRO CITIZEN

75¢ Cairo, Illinois • Thursday, October 15, 2015 Vol. 128 No. 43

# Wonder Market in Cairo set to close permanently

*Albert Banks opened first Cairo store in 1928, Wonder Market operated at same location over 60 years*

Banks Grocery Company of Paducah, owners of Wonder Market in Cairo, officially notified employees of the intent to close the Cairo store on December 6.

"We hate it," said Banks Grocery General Manager Dale Farley. "We met with the Mayor and Larry Klein of the power company over a year ago."

Electric rates were almost a third higher in Cairo than Paducah, according to Farley, and property taxes almost doubled after a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District that included the store was created.

Cairo Public Utility Company negotiated a better rate for the store, Farley said, but Banks Grocery was unable to get any taxing district to discuss tax rates.

Harold Banks started Banks Grocery Company in Cairo in 1928; Wonder Market opened in the current location in the mid fifties.

Banks Grocery Company will continue to operate two locations in Paducah, Banks Grocery in Lone Oak and Cost Saver Plus on Jackson Street.

Some Wonder Market employees will be offered positions in Paducah stores.

"Penny and Danny have both been with Banks Grocery Company for thirty years," said Farley. "Wonder Market has good employees."

Wonder Market will continue to be fully stocked and operate normally until the closing date, Farley said.

"It was a business decision," Farley said. "It was a hard business decision that was a long time coming. We appreciate our Cairo roots but dwindling population has resulted in decreased sales while expenses kept increasing."




**Wonder Market, the only full-service grocery store in Cairo is set to close in December, leaving about a dozen employees with uncertain futures during the holiday season. Dwindling revenue and increased expenses left the business with no alternative, according to the parent company.**