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McDonald's opens for business at Grand & Harlem

Ribbon cutting adds boost to ongoing economic development



Village President Skip Saviano helps Ronald McDonald at ribbon cutting. Former Village President Pete Silvestri and Village Clerk Gina Pesko are to Saviano's right. Owners Saleh Al-Hajje, Mo Al-Hajje and Ellen Al-Hajje are to Ronald's left.

ELMWOOD PARK – The Grand & Harlem redevelopment district got a major shot in the arm Monday as a new McDonald's restaurant opened for business. Village officials and community leaders joined management and corporate representatives for a formal ribbon cutting.

The new restaurant is a 4,000 square foot, single story, restaurant with a dual-lane drive-thru. The facility features the latest in technology, including large electronic menus that are automatically updated throughout the day.

"This is a real plus for Elmwood Park and for our residents," Village President Angelo "Skip" Saviano said. "This restaurant brings new life, jobs and tax dollars to the village. It's also another step forward for our Grand & Harlem redevelopment plan."

Other economic redevelopment efforts include new streetscaping along Grand Avenue, new lighting and a new welcome sign for the village. A new Nascar Car Wash is also under construction and will offer a unique car washing experience utilizing the latest in technology, such as its water filtration and treatment systems as well as a dual belt conveyor system to move cars through the wash.

McDonald's corporate office says that the new Elmwood Park restaurant could create up to 60 new jobs. In addition, the company says that on average, its restaurants return more than 47 cents of every dollar earned to local economies. The company says it plans to operate the dining room from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and the drive-thru 24 hours a day.