

TOGETHER TONGANOXIE THRIVES

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BROTHERS MARKET IN TONGANOXIE has been serving local customers since 2015. The 20,000 square-foot grocery store also offers curbside pickup and delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

Customers continue to make local Brothers Market popular choice for groceries

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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Brothers Market keeps replenishing its shelves as demand from customers remains steady.

Delivery trucks come three times a week these days, with about 65 percent of orders being filled currently as the COVID-19 pandemic continues with fewer restrictions.

Delivery orders during “normal” time usually are filled at 90-95 percent.

Still, sales are up at the Tonganoxie store, 319 Ridge St.

“The town is supporting us,” said manager Rich Swedo.

Swedo said sales are up about 3 percent currently. The store also started serving breakfast, lunch and dinner again alongside the deli.

As that area works to climb back up to pre-

pandemic numbers, some items are flying off the shelves, specifically frozen foods and dairy products.

“If you have 1 percent of growth, it’s really good,” Swedo said, adding that customers seem to be shopping locally more instead of venturing out to larger grocery stores or big box stores.

“It’s been very good,” he said. “We’re happy with the way the town is supporting.”

The Tonganoxie store is the lone Kansas location for the Brothers Market family of stores. Based in Iowa, the company bought the local store in June 2014. A year later, the remodeled 20,000 square-foot store opened in summer 2015.

The Tonganoxie location employs about 40 people, including the four-member staff in the Ace Hardware portion of

the building.

Brothers Market continues to focus on safety during the pandemic. The company mandated about three weeks ago that all employees wear masks.

Plexiglas shields continue to separate customers from employees at checkout stations and the store continues to offer curbside pickup and delivery 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Customers who are 65 and older or others who might have vulnerable health conditions in light of the pandemic still are welcome to early bird shopping 7-9 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

Regular hours are 7 a.m.-9 p.m. daily.

For curbside pickup or delivery, call the store at 913-845-2949. For general info, visit shopbrothers-market.com and look for the Tonganoxie location.



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

ACE HARDWARE NOW OFFERS Benjamin Moore paint and soon will be carrying Magnolia Home Paint from Joanna Gaines of HGTV show “Fixer Upper” fame.

Ace Hardware’s new paints, grill items provide perfect timing as residents spend more time at home

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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Quarantines, stay-at-home orders and more effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have kept many people in their homes the better part of the last three months.

That also means many home improvement projects and other family endeavors.

Ace Hardware manager Chris Small has taken note of those do-it-yourself residents. Business has been steady at Tonganoxie’s Ace store, which opened about three years ago inside Brothers Market.

“We’ve actually been very busy with everyone taking on home projects and to-do lists and all that,” Small said.

Ace Hardware covers about 3,500 square feet at the local grocery store,

which has experienced an uptick in sales from local contractors picking up items there instead of heading out of town.

“It’s just a matter of convenience,” Small explained. “With the pandemic, people’s shopping habits have changed forever.”

Ace carries a variety of hardware and other home improvement products. It also has added additional products, most notably updated paint brands and grilling products.

The store discontinued its Valspar paint line and replaced it with the popular Benjamin Moore paints. Small anticipates Magnolia Home Paint products to also be on shelves sometime in the coming weeks.

The premium paint line come from Joanna Gaines, who starred with her husband, Chip, on HGTV’s “Fixer Upper.”

Other items doing well are Traeger grills and accessories, including seasonings for grilling food and the pellet grills. The store offers various grill brands.

“All of our Traeger stuff has just gone nuts,” Small said about increased sales.

The store is planning to resume its traditional parking lot barbecue it does once or twice a year. That will come later this summer when pandemic guidelines suggest larger gathering capacities and coincide that with Ace’s national paint sample giveaway.

People are wanting to fix the home they’re stuck in looking at every day,” Small said, noting that the paint department has been quite popular.

Ace Hardware can be reached at 913-845-2949. It’s open daily 7 a.m.-9 p.m. daily.

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