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GROUND BREAKS ON NEW "HELPFUL PLACE" FOR PETWORTH RESIDENTS *New Ace Hardware Store Scheduled to Open in November*

WASHINGTON, DC (Aug. 31, 2011) – Ace Hardware is coming to Petworth! Work has begun to open Annie's Ace Hardware at 1240 Upshur St., NW.

Scheduled to open its doors in November, the store will bring its helpful customer service and quality home improvement products to area homeowners and DIYers in the rapidly developing neighborhood of Petworth in Northwest Washington, DC. Annie's Ace Hardware will provide solutions to everyday home improvement needs through an extensive selection of products in categories including paint and lawn and garden. In addition, the on-staff "helpful hardware folks" will ease the shopping experience by offering one-on-one expert advice and assistance.

This is the first Ace store opened by owner Anne Stom. The store will span 7,000 square-feet and stock 15,000 products and have access to more than 80,000 products from the Ace warehouse.

Stom, a longtime Washington, DC, resident, has lived near the Petworth neighborhood for six years. "I am very excited to be part of the ongoing commercial development of this part of the District," she said. "Our vision for Annie's Ace Hardware includes being a strong supporter of our community."

The new store will be near the newly renovated Petworth branch of the D.C. Public Library as well as the Yes! Natural Food store on Georgia Avenue. Annie's Ace Hardware will be a half-mile from the Georgia Avenue/Petworth Metro on the Green and Yellow lines, and near the 60, 62, 63, 70, 71, and 79 Metrobus lines. Capital Bikeshare has also recently announced plans for a Bikeshare station at Georgia Avenue and Upshur Street, scheduled for installation this fall. Stom said there will also be two Zipcar spaces available at the store and bicycle racks.

"This isn't a suburban store," Stom said. "That means our model needs to be different in terms of transportation options, as well as our product mix." For example, she explained, lawn equipment will be geared toward the smaller yards of the nearby row houses. "We will also look at home renovation products that are appropriate for houses built in the early 20th century."

Annie's Ace Hardware will carry the Benjamin Moore paint line, Craftsman tools, and will have a lawn and garden section. "We'll have all the basic hardware products that people expect from an Ace hardware store, but we'll also be revising and updating our merchandise as we get feedback from customers," Stom said.

The property, the former Rainbow Auto Body Shop, is being renovated to house Annie's Ace Hardware. "We anticipate installing shelving and stocking products starting in October, and opening in early November."

About Ace Hardware

Throughout its 80-year history, Ace Hardware has been known as the helpful hardware store by both customers and communities. In 2007, Ace Hardware was ranked the "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Major Home Improvement Retail Stores" by J.D. Power and Associates in its inaugural study of the retail home improvement industry. With 4,600 hardware, home center and building materials stores that generate annual retail sales of more than \$12 billion, Ace is the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the industry. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace currently operates 14 distribution centers in the U.S. and a warehouse in Shanghai, China, and its retailers' stores are located in all 50 states and 60 countries. More information about Ace can be found at www.acehardware.com.

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