



June 7, 2013

## Kenmore Camera moving to shuttered grocery store

By JOURNAL STAFF

General contractor Dewalt Commercial has started renovating a former Grocery Outlet into the new home for Kenmore Camera at Northeast 181st Street and 68th Avenue Northeast.

The 1.2-acre site is across the street from Kenmore Camera's current location. The camera store's owners, Jim and Martha Donovan, earlier this year bought the property for \$1.25 million from the city. It is part of the Kenmore Village redevelopment area.



Image by ORB Architects [\[enlarge\]](#)

Kenmore Camera's new location gives it 17,000 square feet — more than triple its existing space. Donovan plans to move into the new space by late August.

Dewalt is giving the old grocery an exterior facelift and is finishing spaces inside for a showroom, two classrooms, a customer lounge and custom lighting displays.

ORB Architects is the designer and OAC Services is providing construction and project management.

Despite the shrinking specialty camera market that has forced many competitors to close their doors, Kenmore Camera says it has grown its business by making improvements such as lab services and classes for all photography experience levels. It also hosts the annual Digital Photo Expo at the Lynnwood Convention Center, which offers product demonstrations and 32 classes covering photo-related subjects.

City Manager Rob Karlinsey said Kenmore Camera is an anchor for downtown and attracts customers as far away as Tacoma and Bellingham.

The city on Wednesday announced that Benaroya Co. and Real Property Investors will be the likely buyers of 3.3 acres adjacent to Donovan's parcel in Kenmore Village. Another 4.75 acres nearby is expected to be bought by MainStreet Property Group LLC. Both are key to the redevelopment of Kenmore Village.

Karlinsey said they received 16 well-qualified proposals to buy the two larger parcels at Kenmore Village. He said the bidders were quizzed on why they like Kenmore and they all keyed on the city's economy, especially the job market. Other reasons were the city's position at the north end of Lake Washington, the lack of tolls for commuters between Seattle and the Eastside, and the Northshore School District.

### Related Stories:

- [Kenmore Village to be sold for \\$1.8M](#) 06-06-2013
- [8 developers vie for Kenmore Village land](#) 02-21-2013