

Family Dollar makes moves on Ranchos de Taos location

By **Cody Hooks**, chooks@taosnews.com

The Taos News, 7/5/2018

The Taos County Planning and Zoning Commission will vote next week on an application to build a Family Dollar store in Ranchos de Taos, which will replace the Taos RV Park that currently occupies the piece of land at 1800 Paseo del Pueblo Sur.

The hearing on the Family Dollar special use permit will take place Wednesday, July 11 at 6 p.m. in the Taos County Commission Chambers, located at 105 Albright Street, Taos, according to Rudy Perea, a county planner.

The idea of building a dollar store in that location was first proposed in July 2017, but an application was not submitted until May 8 of this year. A Texas-based developer wants to build a roughly 8,400-squarefoot Family Dollar in Ranchos de Taos, 400 square feet more than originally suggested.

The prefabricated metal store with a stucco exterior would be on the west side of Paseo del Pueblo Sur just north of the intersection with State Road 518, across the street and less than half a mile away from its competitor, Dollar General.

Alabama-based construction firm Triple C Development initiated the proposed Family Dollar in Ranchos over a year ago. Its share in the project was bought by another out-of-state company, 7B Building and Development, based in Lubbock, Texas. Abeyta Engineering, a local firm, is handling the application process.

Family Dollar has a store in the Albertson's shopping center as well as stores in both Questa and Penasco. In addition to the Ranchos de Taos' Dollar General, a Dollar Tree was built in the town of Taos across from Walgreen's in 2015. Family Dollar stores also have opened in Angel Fire, Velarde and Espanola.

According to a 2017 interview with 7B CEO Chad Merchant, his company has built about 50 dollar stores, which are geared toward low- and middle-income people. Merchant's company built the Family Dollar in Angel Fire.

"Family Dollar is the one that put us (in Ranchos de Taos). We're a developer for them, and that's where we go work," Merchant said at the time.