

Aptos Safeway expands

A major remodeling of the Safeway store in the Rancho del Mar shopping center in Aptos will give the store room for a delicatessen, bakery, fish market and floral shop when the work is done.

The work is expected to be complete between 10 months and a year.

Rhoda Cooper, assistant manager of the store, said Safeway is adding 11,000 square feet of floor space to the 20,000-square-foot store.

"We're really cramped here," she said. "This is an old

store, and we're ready for the remodel to better meet the customer's needs."

In addition to the new departments, Cooper said the store will expand existing ones such as the natural foods section, non-food variety items and vitamins and health products.

A golf shop, diner and a breezeway to the west of Safeway has been taken over by the store to accommodate the expansion, Cooper said. The new western boundary of the store will go to the dry

cleaner's shop.

Safeway has already started staying open 24 hours per day, and Cooper said the store will keep those hours during the remodeling process.

"Surprisingly, in Aptos, we get a lot of people shopping between midnight and 2 a.m. and between 6 and 8 a.m.," Cooper said.

Although she said some of the nighttime customers are families doing weekly grocery shopping, she added, "the beer case in the morning is gutted."