

# Trader Joe's finally debuts

**Ariane Komyati**  
Staff Reporter

After what may have felt like a lifetime of waiting, the long-anticipated Trader Joe's (TJ) has opened its doors on Centre Street in West Roxbury.

On Oct. 30, TJ (located at the former Walgreens on 1999 Centre St.) held a brief ribbon cutting ceremony, then opened for business at 9 a.m.

Despite the cold, rainy weather, dozens of community members lined up outside the building before it opened. Traffic in the parking lot quickly backed up. By 8:45 a.m., the line stretched across the parking lot towards Citizens Bank. "Digital Nomad" Ken Gagne was the first in line, arriving before 8 a.m.

"This is our fourth official Trader Joe's store in Boston, and our twenty-fifth Trader Joe's in Massachusetts, so we're really excited to be here," TJ's Regional VP Will Walls said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The store hired more than 80 new Crew Members (staff) from neighboring communities and received additional staff transfers from

nearby Trader Joe's locations.

Store Captain (manager) Claire Sommers and the West Roxbury Trader Joe's crew members welcomed the community with free mini TJ tote bags. The totes were orange in honor of Halloween. Shoppers eagerly shuffled into the new store, marveling at the interior. A few patrons live-streamed their shopping experience. The words "West Roxbury" are featured at the entrance, along with a rendering of the nearby West Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library. Inside the store, local landmarks and street names are painted on the walls, including Centre Street, Bellevue, Fontaine's neon chicken Topsy, the old water tower on Bellevue Hill, and the Boston skyline. Multiple ward maps of WR from the late 1800s are framed in the back hallway of the store.

"This is a true neighborhood store," remarked Sommers. "There have been so many people who have knocked on our windows in the past few weeks. People shook my hand just as I walked outside the store. Everybody has been telling me just how excited they



The line was around the block last week as shoppers awaited the grand opening of the new Trader Joe's in West Roxbury.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

are. Many of them are excited they can walk to this location. The community around here is what makes it a true neighborhood store."

Sommers is from Canada, but has worked at Trader Joe's for "quite some time" and has been a captain at other TJ locations in Boston. "The beautiful thing with Trader Joe's is that all of our employees contribute to the team. When people shop in a Trader Joe's, they usually comment how every crew member has been so nice and helpful. Because all of our crew members are trained to do everything, customers can ask any

one of us for help. Like where to find a specific product they're looking for," she explained. All 80 crew members work in customer-facing roles.

The store stated that through the company's long-standing Neighborhood Shares Program, the West Roxbury Trader Joe's will donate 100 percent of products that go unsold but remain fit to enjoy to a range of non-profit, community-based organizations, every day of the week. These local organizations include Spoonfuls, Food Rescue US, and Rose's Bounty. This is especially timely and important,

given the potential loss of SNAP benefits moving forward.

Trader Joe's is a national chain known for its neighborhood-style grocery stores. It prides itself on offering "high-quality products at affordable everyday prices." For more information about the new Trader Joe's in West Roxbury, visit [locations.traderjoes.com/ma/boston/588/](https://locations.traderjoes.com/ma/boston/588/).



## German Centre *presents*

# 15TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 11, 2025 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

A special Veterans Day program to honor those of us who have served and continue to serve.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 - Light Refreshments Served
- 10:00 - Speaking Program Begins
- Introduction:** Sean O'Grady, Executive Director
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Performed by Minister Melvin Murphy
- National Anthem:** Performed by Roxbury Latin Latonics
- Commander:** Richard Gormley / Honor Guard VFW 2902
- Invocation:** Reverend James Butler
- Featured / Keynote Speaker Lineup**
- God Bless America:** Performed by Minister Melvin Murphy

### FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Mike Rush, State Senator
- Sergeant John Downey, West Roxbury Police Depart.
- Nicole England, Community Service West Roxbury Police Depart.
- Ben Weber, Boston City Councilor
- William MacGregor, State Representative
- Emily Shea, Age Strong Commissioner
- Michael Murphy, Commander Sergeant Major
- Ruthzee Louijeune, Boston City Council President
- Jared Estrada, Office of Veterans Affairs

### ★ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ★

- Representative Stephen F. Lynch, United States Congressman
- Michael Cunningham, Author & Vietnam Veteran

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH RSVP, IF ABLE: DAFFNEY GUEY 617-390-3214 OR DGUEY@GERMANCENTRE.ORG**