

Hames Homes eyes office move to Cedar Rapids

Marion home company wants to build a new maintenance building

By Matthew Patane, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Hames Homes, an almost 50-year-old business based in the metro area, plans to move its home office to Cedar Rapids from Marion, the company's president said Tuesday.

"What we're planning on doing is, we are actually going to move out of our location in Marion and consolidate it with our location in southwest Cedar Rapids," President Barbara Hames-Bryant told The Gazette.

Hames Homes also wants to build a maintenance building at 2800 West Post Rd. SW for its manufactured homes. On Tuesday, the Cedar Rapids City Council set a public hearing on that request for March 13.

The company would move its administration and sales staff to an office in southwest Cedar Rapids, 5410 Wabash St. SW, near one of its mobile home parks. Its service department would move to the new maintenance building.

The company has used the Marion location, 640 Marion Blvd., for a display center and office since its founding, Hames-Bryant said. Changing customer pref-



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Workers with Hames Homes connect utilities to a manufactured house as they set it up on a pad at West Branch Village in West Branch in this 2013 photo.

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Barbara Hames-Bryant, Hames Homes president

erences in the manufactured home industry have prompted the company to look at moving the office, she said.

"When we first were in business — and actually for the first 30 years we were in business — we were selling more new homes than pre-owned homes. This was a great display center for new homes," Hames-Bryant said.

"However, the market has changed and now we are really selling more pre-owned homes than new homes and we are really selling more homes

on-site in our communities than from our sales center."

The move is expected to be complete later this year, she said.

The Marion property may see better use from a retail development, she said. Hames's Marion office is close to Lindale Mall and a number of retail centers along Collins Road.

Hames Homes has five manufactured home parks in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and West Branch.

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