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## SAXON SETS NEW STORE NEAR MALL

Saxon Shoes Inc. has signed a lease for 18,000 square feet in the Ridge Shopping Center and the company is working to close its other three stores and consolidate operations around Dec. 1.

The 17-year-old shoe company operates two stores totaling 6,000 square feet on Patterson Avenue, one for women and the other for men. Saxon Shoes also has a 600-square-foot outlet on Main Street downtown.

"We need space and we need parking," said Gary L. Weiner, the company treasurer.

Ridge Shopping Center, on Parham Road near Regency Square, has 480 parking spaces, Weiner said. Saxon Shoes now has 17 to 20 spaces on Patterson Avenue and no parking for downtown customers.

As a family business, Saxon Shoes will operate more efficiently under one roof, Weiner added.

The 3-year-old downtown outlet "is a nice little store doing a nice little business," he said. Sales increased each year over the prior one, but it took time away from Saxon's main outlet, so the company decided to close it.

"If we weren't a family business, we would've kept a small store like that," Weiner said. "Our time is better spent concentrating on a large store than it is on a large store and a satellite."