

## Mountainside Fitness opens gym, shuts one

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As one gym's doors close, another's open - at least for Mountainside Fitness.

The gym opened its latest location and new headquarters Saturday at Main Street Commons at Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 in Gilbert.

It is closing its only other Gilbert location, at Warner and Cooper roads, in the hopes it can be renovated.

That location, which opened in 1998, is Mountainside's oldest, owner Tom Hatten said. The company is looking to do a full-scale renovation inside the space in the anchor spot of its shopping center.

Before Hatten invests in work on that location, however, he said he wants his landlord to spruce up the center.

Shops in the center, which is partly obscured from the road by a gas station and trees, have gone out of business recently.

Hatten's partner, William Malkovich, sent a letter to Mountainside clients just one week before it was scheduled to close. The note said the close is temporary; but that will depend on the landlord, Hatten said.

Meanwhile, Mountainside members from that location can work out at the new location while paying the previous membership price - in some cases, that's nearly 50 percent off, Hatten said.

Despite the discount, he'll lose some customers in the move, he said. Some clients chose the gym because it's near their home or work, and the new location is more than six miles from the old one.

The new gym features an IMAX cycle room, indoor basketball court, a 30-foot rock-climbing wall and, for now, a panoramic view of the mountains that ring the East Valley. That may change as other buildings go up in Main Street Commons.

The gym has those views because it's on the top floor of the two-story retail building. It was supposed to be the last building to open on Main Street Commons, but it's now one of the first because many other businesses have bailed out of the project or decided to wait until the economy improves.

Hatten owns the entire building, and he's counting on a big opening for the gym to get tenants in the spaces downstairs.

It's a unique opportunity in Gilbert, he says, because it's a more urban atmosphere, near the highway, the gym and two new hotels