

Battery Source coming to town

Georgia company to open two locations, will also sell EZ-GO golf cars.

Georgia-based Battery Source wants to expand into Jacksonville with two retail stores in spring 2018.

The company sells batteries and chargers and also carries EZ-GO golf cars and accessories.

Its online "golf car showroom" lists new and used golf cars ranging from \$5,399 to \$10,799.

It sells batteries for automotive, marine, commercial, laptop, cellphone, cordless phones, camcorders, wheelchairs, watches, hearing aids and computers, for example.

Battery Source Vice President C.R. Glass said it chose Jacksonville because of its proximity to its Thomasville headquarters and the growth of Northeast Florida.

"We believe there is a great need for our business model by the community and Jacksonville's large population fits within our internal demographics profile," Glass said by email.

Plans show Battery Source wants to build stores of almost 4,500 square feet each on almost 1 acre at 12420 Beach Blvd. and on 1.4 acres at 11913 San Jose Blvd.

Ray Glass Batteries Inc. is listed as the owner and builder of the \$320,000 construction jobs.

Glass predicts each location will cost about \$1.5 million to develop and he expects they will open in the spring. Battery Source will own the property and the building and also will use mostly local subcontractors for the construction, he said.

"These locations seem to have high growth and population density," Glass said. That provides a long-term opportunity for Battery Source.

Battery Source will hire up to



Georgia-based Battery Source is planning on opening two locations in Duval County in 2018. The family-owned company also sells golf cars.

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four employees at each store.

Glass said the company expects to build more stores "in a city as large as Jacksonville."

"It has been great for us watching the world become more mobile-dependent and watching all of these batteries evolve and become more and more of an essential part of everyone's life," Glass said.

He said Battery Source helps customers find the right battery and will install it.

The family-owned company operates 21 retail stores in Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

Florida's seven stores include locations in Pensacola, Tallahassee, Panama City, Ocala and Gainesville.

Batterysource.com calls the company "Your Battery Discount Super Store."

Company history says that Ray Glass started in the battery business in 1958 in Thomasville with a wholesale truck route serving auto parts stores, garages and service stations.

Routes extended into Alabama and Florida. He and his wife, Vivien, had three sons - Bobby, C.R. and Kevin - who joined the business, Ray Glass Batteries Inc.

With the rise in chain stores and the decline of garages and service stations, the family re-

focused to consumer sales and added a retail division in 1989.

That was Battery Source and it carried the array of batteries and added new and used golf cars and accessories.

In 2010, it opened a distribution center and corporate offices.

The third generation of Glass is joining the business, which continues with the retail growth and one wholesale route.

Glass said Battery Source stocks and installs most common, as well as uncommon, batteries for automobiles and mobile devices including for wristwatches, excavators, cellphones, vehicles, laptops, motorcycles and boats.

It services the golf cars it sells as well as other manufacturers' cars.

"We have always felt that golf cars were a great fit for our model because batteries are the heart of a golf car," he said.

Glass said the company will celebrate 60 years in business next year and that all three generations are still involved in the business to a certain degree.

Powers Bay Business Center site plans filed

Developers filed site plans