

# Safeway's third quarter profits boosted by sale of Genuardi's

By Steven E.F. Brown, San Francisco Business Times

Safeway Inc. finished selling 16 Genuardi's stores for \$80.4 million, and the \$49 million of that left after taxes kept the company's third quarter profit above that of the same quarter a year ago.

Pleasanton-based Safeway earned \$157 million on sales of \$10.049 billion in the quarter ended Sept. 8. A year earlier the company earned \$130.2 million on sales of \$10.064 billion.

Per share earnings were 66 cents in the most recent quarter, up from 38 cents a year earlier. But the company had just 237 million shares outstanding in the most recent period, down from 343 million a year earlier.

Comparing income from continuing operations, Safeway earned \$108 million in the most recent quarter, down from \$130.3 million a year earlier.

Safeway spent \$159.6 million in capital expenditures during the quarter. All in all, it closed 23 stores, including those 16 Genuardi's that it sold.

The company still expects to earn \$1.90 to \$2.10 per share for the full year.