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This week National Markets makes its reappearance in the area - under new ownership. After Schnucks Markets Inc. acquired all 57 **National Supermarkets** stores, the Federal Trade Commission directed Schnucks to sell 24 stores to preserve competition.

Enter Family Co. of America, formed by James Gibson of Belleville, Ron Jezierski, a former executive of National, and Charles Lehnbeuter, once of Oppenheimer & Co. They bought 19 former National stores and four Schnucks stores in what many analysts believe is a risky gamble. But National will offer service to neighborhoods long loyal to the former chain. Schnucks could be given a run for its money, and because of that consumers may save some of theirs. The new National deserves a hearty welcome and best wishes.

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Section: EDITORIAL
Page: 6B
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