

THOMAS EDWARD J  
 Form 4  
 December 11, 2002

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
 COMMISSION**  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 4**

[ ] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

**OMB APPROVAL**  
 OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response. ... 0.5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  Thomas, Edward J. (Last) (First) (Middle)	4. Statement for Month/Day/Year  11/13/02
850 - 76th Street SW (Street)	5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
Grand Rapids Michigan 49518 (City) (State) (Zip)	
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  Spartan Stores, Inc. ("SPTN")	6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ___ Director &nbsp;    ___ 10% Owner <u>X</u> Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)  &nbsp;    ___ Vice President Retail Merchandising
3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)	7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <u>X</u> Form Filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	11/13/02		A(1)		5,000	A	N/A	5,000	D	

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FORM 4 (continued)

**Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date
7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)			
Title	Amount or Number of Shares								

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Explanation of Responses:

(1) This Form 4 reports the grant of 5,000 shares of restricted stock under the Spartan Stores, Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan ("Plan"). These shares will remain subject to restrictions in accordance with the Plan and the terms of the grant until March 25, 2006.

By: /s/ Edward J. Thomas

December 11, 2002

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Edward J. Thomas

\*By Alex J. DeYonker

Attorney-in-Fact

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations  
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure

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**LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY**

The undersigned does hereby constitute and appoint ALEX J. DEYONKER, GORDON R. LEWIS, TIMOTHY L. HORNER, MARK J. WASSINK and MICHAEL K. MOLITOR, or any one or more of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys and agents, with full power of substitution in the premises, to do any and all acts and things and to execute and file any and all instruments that such attorneys and agents, or any of them, may consider necessary or advisable to enable the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and any requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect thereof, in connection with his or her intended sale of any security related to SPARTAN STORES, INC. (the "Company") pursuant to Rule 144 issued under the Securities Act and the preparation, execution and filing of any report or statement of beneficial ownership or changes in beneficial ownership of securities of the Company that the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) may be required to file pursuant to Sections 13 or 16 of the Act including, without limitation, full power and authority to sign the undersigned's name, in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity, to any report, application or statement on Form ID, Forms 3, 4, 5 or 144, Schedules 13D or 13G, or to any amendments or any successor forms thereto, or any form or forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in lieu thereof or in addition thereto, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorneys and agents, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

The undersigned agrees that the attorneys-in-fact named herein act as legal counsel to the Company in connection with the securities matters addressed herein, and do not represent the undersigned in his or her personal capacity in connection with such matters. The undersigned agrees that the attorneys-in-fact named herein may rely entirely on information furnished orally or in writing by the undersigned to such attorneys-in-fact. The undersigned also agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the attorneys-in-fact against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions in respect thereof) that arise out of or are based upon any untrue statement or omission of necessary fact in the information provided by the undersigned to the attorneys-in-fact for purposes of executing, acknowledging, delivering

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or filing any such forms, or any amendments or any successor forms thereto, or any form or forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in lieu thereof or in addition thereto.

This authorization shall supersede all prior authorizations to act for the undersigned with respect to securities of the Company in these matters, which prior authorizations are hereby revoked, and shall survive the termination of the undersigned's status as a director and/or officer of the Company and remain in effect thereafter for so long as the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) is subject to Rule 144 with respect to securities of the Company or has any obligation under Section 16 of the Exchange Act with respect to securities of the Company.

Date: November 14, 2002

/s/ Edward J. Thomas

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Edward J. Thomas