

# Making progress



LAUREN PIERCE | THE JOURNAL

Construction continues on the new Publix on Rochester Highway in Seneca. The store is now slated to open in late spring, according to a company official.

## New Seneca Publix 'on schedule' for spring opening

BY BRIAN GRAVES  
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SENECA — The Publix store on Rochester Highway in Seneca remains on track to open this spring.

There have been “no construction delays,” according to Jared Glover, media relations manager for the Charlotte division of Publix Super Markets Inc.

“We are on schedule to open late spring of this year,” Glover added.

The regional grocery store chain stepped in after Southeastern Mar-

kets, the parent company of Bi-Lo, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2018 and announced it was closing its Rochester Highway location.

Publix paid \$100,000 to acquire the lease, fixtures, permits and licenses at the Seneca 130 Plaza location in May 2018. A 20-year lease was later agreed to with property owner Nalley Properties about a year and a half later.

Publix confirmed in November 2019 it would completely demolish the former Bi-Lo building and “start fresh,” adding completion

time would be 10 months to a year once construction started.

Nalley Properties president Wes Nalley said the total cost of the project was expected to be about \$7 million, including the building, new parking lot, landscaping and yard lights. Demolition began in June 2020 to make way for the new 49,092-square-foot facility.

Glover said the store will employ about 130 people, but a start date for hiring has yet to be set.

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