



JERRY BEARD | THE JOURNAL

The new Publix in Seneca is slated to open early next month.

## Long-awaited Seneca Publix slated to open May 5

**BY NORM CANNADA**  
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SENECA — The long-awaited Seneca Publix Super Market is scheduled to open next month, about three years after the Florida-based grocery chain purchased the lease at the former Seneca Bi-Lo location on Rochester Road.

Jared Glover, media relations manager for the Charlotte, N.C., division of Publix Super Markets

Inc., said the store is scheduled to open for the first time at 7 a.m. May 5. He added a ribbon-cutting ceremony would likely happen “a few minutes” before the doors open. Officials said work is a little ahead of schedule.

“We’re excited,” Glover said. “Construction has gone well, especially during (the COVID pandemic), when a lot of construction has slowed down, so it is good that we were able to stay ahead of schedule.”

Glover added the store will employ about 140 people.

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 with Nalley Properties was agreed to in the fall of 2019. Publix officials said the Bi-Lo building would be demolished and replaced with a new, approximately 48,000-square-foot store.

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# PUBLIX: 'It went incredibly smoothly'

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Building permits filed with the city of Seneca estimated the project would cost about \$7 million.

Nalley Properties president Wes Nalley said his firm completed its work on the building "probably two or three weeks ahead" of the agreed April 8 deadline. He said the store "has been turned over to Publix" to complete its work before the store opens.

He added demolishing the former Bi-Lo store and building a new Publix was done while preserving the six storefronts on either side of the grocery store. Nalley credited Vannoy and Sons Construction and its job superintendent, George Carter, with maneuvering successfully through the process and getting the job completed

ahead of schedule.

"It went incredibly smoothly, and I give all the credit and appreciation to Vannoy Construction Company. It was seamless," Nalley said. "George Carter, the job superintendent, stayed on the job 24/7, especially during the demolition of the Bi-Lo, and just pulled it out like you're pulling a sock out of a drawer and then started construction on the Publix seamlessly. It was a really smooth job."

Nalley said he has signed leases with two tenants, including the nail spa that was there when Bi-Lo was operating. He is working on finding tenants for the other storefronts and said some of those would likely come after the Publix opening.

He also praised the work of Seneca officials and said

building inspectors "were extremely helpful when we needed them to come out and do inspections."

"It was always timely," Nalley said.

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