



## **Lowe's Foods to Build First Columbia Market Store in Lexington**

*Lexington Store to Include Local Emphasis, Original Concepts, and Exceptional Service*

Winston-Salem, N.C. (June 7, 2016) – Lowe's Foods, a Carolinas-based grocer with locations in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, will build its first Columbia-area store in Lexington. Columbia is the second new market for Lowe's Foods as part of an overall company strategy to remodel all existing stores and expand into two-to-three additional markets by 2019.

“Our Lexington store will be very focused on supporting local, while providing exceptional attention to our guests,” Lowe's Foods president Tim Lowe said. “Our commitment to local includes offering produce sourced through our partnership with over 200 local farmers, and featuring a wide assortment of unique local products found throughout the store.”

Located at the Northwest corner of Charter Oaks Road and US 1, key features of the Lexington store will include special store areas called Lowe's Foods Originals, which include: Chicken Kitchen, SausageWorks, Pick & Prep, The Beer Den, and the Community Table. In addition, the Lexington store will feature a wide assortment of organic options, premium aged beef, bulk foods, fresh baked L'Oven cookies, fresh pizza and paninis, and chef-inspired prepared foods. For the ultimate in locally grown products, Lowe's Foods will feature a “pick your own herbs” section in the front of the store where you can clip a fresh sprig of rosemary or thyme for that recipe that calls for just a pinch. The store will also offer their Lowe's Foods-To-Go online personal shopping service.

The Beer Den will feature a craft beer collection, including numerous South Carolina-brewed beers. Guests can purchase 64- or 32-ounce growlers and then have them filled with craft beers direct from the tap. The Beer Den also will offer hundreds of bottled craft beers, including the ability for beer lovers to create their own favorite six packs.

The Chicken Kitchen will include a variety of prepared chicken, including wings, fried, and fresh-roasted chicken. “When hot chicken comes out of the rotisserie oven at Lowe's Foods, our animated chicken chandelier signals the start of our special chicken celebration,” Lowe said. “Our Chicken Kitchen hosts will perform our own version of the Chicken Dance and invite guests to join in. It's a lot of fun.”

If Willy Wonka had made sausage instead of chocolate, his famous factory would have been SausageWorks at Lowe's Foods. SausageWorks features locally made pork, beef and poultry sausages in an unbelievable number of flavors, from the familiar crowd-pleasers to the “are they insane?” combinations.

A focal point of the new Lexington store will be Lowe's Foods Community Table, where shoppers can gather to sample, enjoy and learn how to prepare local foods. The Community Table, which will be constructed of reclaimed wood, also will offer events such as recipe sampling, crafts for children, gluten free eating tips and more.

“Our Pick & Prep area is like having your own personal sous chef. It's one of my personal favorites,” Lowe added. “Shoppers select their fruits or vegetables from our produce department. Next, our Pick & Prep hosts use their advanced knife skills to chop, slice or julienne them—however they are needed for recipes or snacks. Cooks can even customize their mix of Pick & Prep items for a recipe or pick up a prepared selection.”

The grocer, known for embracing all things local, will also be opening later this year in the Greenville area, following the announcement of coming to that market made in 2015.

**About Lowes Foods, LLC.**

Lowes Foods, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alex Lee, Inc. Founded in 1954, Lowes Food Stores, LLC employs nearly 9,000 people and operates over 100 stores in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The company is committed to offering fabulous fresh foods and delivering personal attention to each of its customers. Locally owned and operated Lowes Food, LLC is committed to buying local products and supporting local suppliers. They offer programs such as Lowes Foods To Go, a personal shopping service as well an online meal planner that focuses on saving people time and money. Information about these programs and other services offered by the company may be found at [www.lowesfoods.com](http://www.lowesfoods.com) or by following Lowes Foods on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

**About Alex Lee, Inc.**

Founded in 1931 by Alex and Lee George, Alex Lee is a family-owned and operated company that employs approximately 10,000 people. It serves as the parent company of Merchants Distributors, LLC, which provides full-service, wholesale distribution to supermarkets across the Southeastern United States. In addition, Alex Lee is the parent company of Lowes Foods, LLC, which includes full-service grocery stores in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, including Just\$ave food stores in North Carolina. Alex Lee, Inc. is based in Hickory, NC. To learn more, visit [alexlee.com](http://alexlee.com)