



Media contact: Steve Bumgarner, 336-722-9660/336-403-0955 [steve@capturevalue.com](mailto:steve@capturevalue.com)

## **Two Columbia-area BI-LO Stores to Become Lowes Foods**

*BI-LO Stores in Charleston and Greenville Markets also Being Converted*

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (SEPTEMBER 1, 2020)—Alex Lee, parent company of Lowes Foods, has signed an agreement to purchase two BI-LO grocery stores in the Columbia market and will convert them to Lowes Foods. The stores are located at 120 Forum Drive in Columbia and 1419 Chapin Road in neighboring Lexington County. Lowes Foods, a Carolinas-based grocer, is well known for offering produce and products from the Carolinas and currently operates three stores in the Columbia region.

The newly purchased stores will continue to operate as BI-LO until Lowes Foods completes the purchase this fall. Lowes Foods will do a complete conversion of the two stores by next summer to introduce the full Lowes Foods shopping experience, including its specialty shopping areas called Lowes Foods Originals.

When the stores initially rebrand this fall, shoppers will begin to see the products from several Lowes Foods Originals including packaged Smokehouse ribs and BBQ, SausageWorks sausages as well as Chicken Kitchen products including fried chicken, rotisserie chicken, chicken wings and in-store made chicken salad and chicken pot pies. The expanded wine department will feature Sunmill Direct, an assortment of wine sourced directly from vineyards around the globe. The bakery areas will also carry Lowes Foods' popular L'Oven fresh cookies.

Lowes Foods will upgrade the store delis to feature Boar's Head meats and cheeses and will update the beef selection to include Certified Angus Beef®. In addition, the stores will have an expanded produce section to include more organic and specialty products and a larger floral department featuring orchids, bouquets, and balloons.

"We're thrilled to have the opportunity to accelerate our Carolinas expansion in the Columbia market with the addition of two new stores," Lowes Foods President Tim Lowe said. "People from the Columbia market have welcomed Lowes Foods with open arms since we opened our first store in Lexington in 2017, and we look forward to serving even more Lowes Foods fans with the two new stores this fall."

Lowe said that in addition to the two stores in the Columbia market, two BI-LO stores in the Charleston market and one in Greenville will undergo similar conversions to Lowes Foods in the coming months.

### **About Lowes Foods, LLC**

Founded in 1954, Lowes Foods employs nearly 9,000 people and operates 74 full-service supermarkets in the Carolinas. Locally owned and operated, Lowes Foods is truly a homegrown company committed to bringing community back to the table. To learn more, visit [lowesfoods.com](http://lowesfoods.com) or follow Lowes Foods on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Lowes Foods, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alex Lee, Inc.

### **About Alex Lee, Inc.**

Founded in 1931, Alex Lee is a family-owned and operated company that employs approximately 14,000 people. It serves as the parent company of Merchants Distributors, which provides full-service, wholesale distribution to supermarkets; Souto Foods, a distributor of authentic Hispanic foods; Lowes Foods, which operates full-service grocery stores in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia; and W. Lee Flowers, a wholesale distributor based in Scranton, South Carolina, which also owns and operates retail stores under the KJ's Market and IGA brands. Alex Lee is based in Hickory, North Carolina. For more information, please visit [alexlee.com](http://alexlee.com).

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