New Lexington Kroger store gets final approval

BY BETH MUSGRAVE
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A new Kroger store is coming to Fayette County, further indication the Cincinnati-based chain is fighting back against new regional competitors.

On Sept. 11, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council gave final approval for a zone change from residential and business zones to a commercial business zone for roughly 32 acres at 1811 Winchester Road. The site is between Patchen Wilkes neighborhood and Executive Drive near the Interstate 64 and Interstate 75 interchange.

The 127,000-square-foot grocery store will have a wine and spirits shop, as well as a fuel center and other neighborhood amenities, according to the plans filed with the city in May.

The proposed development is across the street from Frederick Douglass High School. The high school's access road, Charleston Drive, is expected to connect across Winchester Road with a traffic signal and a pedestrian walkway that would provide access, according to plans filed with the city.

Officials with Kroger did not immediately return emails asking for comment. It's not clear when construction will begin or when the new store will open.

KROGER EXPANDS ITS LEXINGTON FOOTPRINT AS PUBLIX MOVES IN

Kroger has continued to expand in Fayette County, particularly in the city's rapidly growing north and east sides.

The move comes as Publix, a Florida-based grocery store, has expanded its footprint in Kentucky, opening two new stores in Lexington over the past 12 months.

The first Publix store on Citation Boulevard opened in March. The second store, at Fountains of Palomar on Harrodsburg Road and Man 'o War Boulevard, opened this summer.

Kroger recently opened a new Kroger Marketplace at 760 Newtown Springs Dr. off Newtown Pike in August, serving a population on the city's north side that has long clamored for a grocery store.

Kroger Marketplace stores are generally more than 120,000 square feet and add home goods and clothing sections to the department lineup. In Lexington, Kroger has Marketplace locations at Beaumont Centre Circle and on Richmond Road.

Other Lexington Kroger locations include stores on Chinoe, Tates Creek, Nicholasville, Euclid, Bryan Station, Leestown, Hartland Parkway, Boston and Alexandria Drive.



Stellantis/TNS

Stellantis NV has scrapped development of its all-electric Ram 1500 pickup truck.

Stellantis cancels oft-delayed electric Ram 1500

BY GRANT SCHWAB
The Detroit News

WASHINGTON

Stellantis NV has scrapped development of its all-electric Ram 1500 pickup truck, the company said Friday.

The transatlantic automaker made the move amid worsening consumer appetite for electric vehicles and significant rollbacks under Republican President Donald Trump of federal programs meant to support an industrywide transition to EVs.

"As demand for full-size battery electric trucks slows in North America, Stellantis is reassessing its product strategy and will discontinue development of a full-size BEV pickup," Ram said in a statement shared by spokesperson Noah Thanos.

The outright cancellation comes after multiple delays. After being unveiled in 2023, the pickup was initially expected to be out by late 2024. The latest update from May indicated the model would launch in 2027.

Ram still plans to sell its range-extended electric vehicle, or REEV, version of the pickup but under a different title than previously planned. The model formerly known as the Ramcharger will now be called the Ram 1500 REV, assuming the name of its now-canceled sibling.

The vehicle will use a new technology that pairs a battery with an onboard gas generator – a 3.6-liter V-6 Pentastar engine – for on-the-go recharging. Production is slated to begin in 2026.

"This vehicle will set a new benchmark in the half-ton segment, offering exceptional range, towing capability, and payload performance," the company said.

The battery-only Ram 1500 cancellation is the latest in a wave of pullbacks on electrification – especially in the light-duty truck segment – from the Detroit Three.

Ford Motor Co. said in August that it was delaying the launch of its next-generation electric full-size pickup truck to 2028. In the meantime, the Dearborn-based automaker announced plans to invest $2 billion in its Louisville Assembly Plant to reinvent its traditional moving assembly system in a bid to achieve EV cost savings and produce a midsize electric pickup to be priced around $30,000.

General Motors Co., for its part, was planning to build electric trucks at its Orion Assembly plant in Metro Detroit before changing course due to market conditions. Instead, the company said in June that gas-powered full-size SUVs and light-duty pickups are coming to Orion as part of a $4 billion investment.

Stellantis has spent much of the year pivoting back to fan-favorite, internal combustion offerings after a poor performance in 2024 that damaged the company's reputation with dealers, hurt its share price on Wall Street and resulted in the resignation of former CEO Carlos Tavares.

New Stellantis boss Antonio Filosa, a senior executive with the company since its formation in 2021, has worked to reverse those trends.

"What we want to achieve for the rest of the year is a gradual, sequential acceleration," Filosa said on a July earnings call, making his CEO debut. "We do that by launching new products, improving our execution, and by taking all the tough decisions needed, as we started doing in H1."

White House plans broad crackdown on liberal groups

BY KATIE ROGERS AND ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON

Trump administration officials on Monday responded to activist Charlie Kirk's assassination by threatening to bring the weight of the federal government down on what they alleged was a left-wing network that funds and incites violence, seizing on the killing to make broad and unsubstantiated claims about their political opponents.

Investigators were still working to identify a motive in Kirk's killing, but the Republican governor of Utah, Spencer Cox, has said that the suspect had a "leftist ideology" and that he acted alone.

The White House and President Donald Trump's allies suggested that he was part of a coordinated movement that was fomenting violence against conservatives, without presenting evidence that such a network existed. America has seen a wave of violence across the political spectrum, targeting Democrats and Republicans.

On Monday, two senior administration officials, who spoke anonymously to describe the internal planning, said that Cabinet secretaries and federal department heads were working to identify organizations that funded or supported violence against conservatives. The goal, they said, was to categorize left-wing activity that led to violence as domestic terrorism, an escalation that critics said could lay the groundwork for crushing anti-conservative dissent more broadly.

Some of the highest-ranking officials in the federal government used Kirk's podcast, "The Charlie Kirk Show," to lay out their plans.

From his official office at the White House, Vice President JD Vance served as a guest host of the podcast, inviting senior members of the administration, including Stephen Miller, the president's top policy adviser, to praise Kirk while also detailing their plans to crack down on what they called leftist nongovernmental organizations. The show was broadcast on the television screens in the White House briefing room and in several West Wing offices.

In their comments, Vance and Miller spoke in vague and menacing terms about far-left groups that they said facilitated violence.

Miller said a formal effort would be coming, with federal agencies rooting out what he referred to as a "domestic terror movement," and that they would be doing it in Kirk's name.

Trump: Companies shouldn't need to report quarterly earnings

BY LISA HORNUNG
UPI.com

President Donald Trump said Monday that American public companies shouldn't have to report quarterly earnings, and should instead change to a six-month schedule.

Trump said on Truth Social: "Subject to SEC Approval, Companies and Corporations should no longer be forced to 'Report' on a quarterly basis (Quarterly Reporting!), but rather to Report on a 'Six (6) Month Basis.' This will save money, and allow managers to focus on properly running their companies. Did you ever hear the statement that, 'China has a 50 to 100 year view on management of a company, whereas we run our companies on a quarterly basis???' Not good!!!"

Trump mentioned this potential change during his first term in office, too.

This would change the way U.S. companies do business, and it would more closely align with how public companies report in other countries.

The change requires approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission, which has required quarterly reporting since 1970.

Wall Street closely follows quarterly results to determine the financial performance of companies. Many public companies host earnings calls after they post their results, which is a chance for investors to ask questions about the company's decisions.

Ex-prosecutor's lawsuit challenges Trump's claims to power

BY WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM, JONAH E. BROMWICH AND BENJAMIN WEISER
NYT News Service

Maurene Comey, a federal prosecutor who handled criminal cases against Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, is contesting her abrupt July firing in a lawsuit that challenges Donald Trump's claim of sweeping presidential power.

Comey, whose father, James Comey, is a former FBI director, says in the lawsuit filed Monday that she was never given a reason for her dismissal. She contends that no plausible explanation exists other than that she is the daughter of one of the president's best-known adversaries – or her perceived political affiliations.

Maurene Comey is among many federal prosecutors and Justice Department officials who have been fired in President Donald Trump's second term, with no reason given beyond Article II of the Constitution, which broadly describes the president's powers. Some have challenged their dismissals before administrative judges; others have sued in federal court.

Comey's lawsuit, filed in federal court in New York City, names as defendants the Office of the President, the Justice Department, Attorney General Pam Bondi and others, and calls her firing from the U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of New York illegal.

"The politically motivated termination of Ms. Comey – ostensibly under 'Article II of the Constitution' – upends bedrock principles of our democracy and justice system," the lawsuit says. "Assistant United States attorneys like Ms. Comey must do their jobs without fearing or favoring any political party or perspective, guided solely by the law, the facts and the pursuit of justice."

Comey, a 10-year-veteran who was among the most highly regarded trial lawyers in the Manhattan prosecutor's office, was fired as the White House sought to quell frustration from its base about its reluctance to release files related to Epstein, the disgraced financier. Epstein killed himself in a federal jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges. His associate, Maxwell, was convicted of sex trafficking a minor and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The brief memorandum informing Comey of her termination gave no explanation for the firing but cited Article II. In the lawsuit, Comey said that the U.S. attorney, Jay Clayton, was unable to provide her with a rationale.

"All I can say is it came from Washington," Clayton told her, according to the lawsuit. "I can't tell you anything else."

The White House and the Department of Justice did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

The lawsuit argues that Comey's firing was done without cause, advance notice or an opportunity to contest it, and was unlawful and unconstitutional. It says that the dismissal was retaliation for "her father's protected speech, or because of her perceived political affiliation and beliefs, or both."

Comey contends that the law provides no authority for the president to fire rank-and-file prosecutors, who are protected by civil service laws passed by Congress and signed by past presidents.

Maurene Comey and the other fired prosecutors and Justice Department officials are among a legion of employees dismissed since Trump took office again in January, leading to legal battles over the parameters of executive power. Firings at the Justice Department have been focused on high-level career officials who served in Republican and Democratic administrations, as well as prosecutors who investigated Trump and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Like some of the other fired officials, Comey was targeted by far-right activist Laura Loomer who, the suit notes, called for her firing on social media.

Comey's suit, which seeks back pay and legal fees, asks that she be reinstated and that the Trump administration not act against her without affording her due process. Her termination, the suit says, came without advance notice or an opportunity to contest it.

The suit makes the case that she had an exemplary career from the time that she was hired in 2015.