

# Meijer opening date pending final development conditions approval

By **KALEY RICHARD**

The new Meijer store opening in Bainbridge on the Geauga Lake property appears to be ready for customers, but there are still some conditions they must meet before the official opening, the Bainbridge Board of Trustees said in their meeting last week.

An official press release from Meijer was sent out, announcing the 159,000 square foot store's opening to be May 6 at 7300 Aurora Rd.

"The feedback we've received from customers about the value and convenience we offer is consistently positive, and we are excited to bring that experience to our neighbors in Aurora and Bainbridge Township," said Todd Anderson, Vice President of the Ohio Region for Meijer. "Being part of this historic redevelopment at Geauga Lake is an incredible honor, and we look forward to serving

customers at this location soon."

Before they can open, the township needs to have documentation that their final development plan matches the completed construction of the building, which was previously approved last year conditionally.

"Part of the conditions include having an accessible road," Trustee Jeff Markley said on Thursday.

But the master developer for the property, Industrial Commercial Properties (ICP), still has not sought a traffic signal needed for the project, he said.

Meijer's final development plan was approved in March 2025 conditionally. The conditions Mr. Markley presented last year said that Meijer shall provide the township with a copy of the stormwater approval letter from Geauga County Soil & Water Conservation District with respect to their development,

copies of an executed performance bond maintenance agreement and easements, copies of executed and recorded utility easements from the City of Aurora, copies of the approved development agreement, the sewer and water plans that will be submitted to Aurora, evidence of approval by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) of an entrance from State Route 43 and that occupancy of the Meijer property and the development shall not occur and expressly is prohibited until completion of the construction and dedication of Big Dipper Road is finished.

Last week he said that there must be a traffic signal in place for the intersection, but it has yet to be determined where it would go.

"ODOT says, 'pick one and create the entrance,' ICP has not gone to that owner to do anything to consolidate that property," Mr. Markley said.

Once those conditions are met, the township's Zoning Inspector Steve Averill will be able to issue a certificate. Then, only once that is done, the county can issue an occupancy permit, Mr. Markley said.

"Our process has conditions, the dedication will be signed by the county once conditions are met," he said.

Unless the store is willing to only open off of State Route 43 and it is approved by ODOT, their rapidly approaching opening day may have to be discussed with the township trustees.

"We're supportive of them opening but they need to figure out what they plan on doing and if other entities are okay with it," Mr. Markley said.

Representatives at Meijer did not respond to requests for comment before press deadline.