

Retailing

Whataburger to join Wegmans in huge development



A big development in Wake Forest has added new tenants.

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Story Highlights

- Grove 98 in Wake Forest is fully leased with new tenants.
- Whataburger will begin construction on a new restaurant soon.
- Chopt, Summer Moon Coffee and Sweathouz will open by year-end.

A big development in Wake Forest has landed another batch of dynamic tenants.

Grove 98, a [Wegmans-anchored mixed-use development](#) at Highway 98 and Ligon Mill Road, is 100 percent leased after signing new tenants that include Chopt Creative Salad Co., Summer Moon Coffee and Sweathouz.

Meanwhile, Whataburger will start construction on its restaurant and drive-thru any day, according to Grove 98’s developer, Stiles. The Texas-based restaurant chain plans to build a 3,305-square-foot restaurant with a drive-

thru and seating for 52 at 489 Dr. Calvin Jones Highway, located directly across from Sleep Number and The Lindley at Grove 98 apartments.

Whataburger and Stiles executed a ground lease last year for the 1.29-acre parcel for 180 months with three options to renew, according to Wake County records. The lease agreement prevents Stiles from bringing other burger restaurants – including Dairy Queen, McDonald’s and Cook Out – to the development without Whataburger’s consent.

Whataburger is opening its first North Carolina locations in Charlotte and the Triad this year, with Triangle locations opening most likely in 2026. The company purchased a [former Applebee’s](#) at 501 E. Six Forks Road in Raleigh in March and has plans to open at a [former PDQ](#) at 6305 Falls of Neuse Road.

Stiles expects Chopt, Summer Moon and Sweathouz to be open by the end of the year.

Grove 98 will be New York-based Chopt’s fourth Triangle location, with two others located in Raleigh and one in Chapel Hill. The development will be Summer Moon Coffee’s second Wake Forest location, joining the brand’s sister store at 3600 Rogers Branch Road. Summer Moon is headquartered in Austin, Texas, and operates as a franchise.

Sweathouz, a sauna and cold plunge studio based in Atlanta, has a location at Seaboard Station in Raleigh, with Wake Forest and Chapel Hill locations both listed as coming soon on its website.

Other newcomers to Grove 98 include Outback Steakhouse and [O2 Fitness](#). Several businesses – Dave’s Hot Chicken, Five Guys, SEN Nail Spa, Bibibop Asian Grill, Piada Italian Street Food and Five Guys – have already opened.

Justin Siemens, president of Stiles Carolinas, said in a release that there’s been “strong demand for high-quality retail experiences” in this part of Wake Forest.

“With Grove 98, we set out to create a walkable, energized destination, and with the completion of retail leasing, we’re proud to see that vision fully realized,” he said.

Grove 98’s 80,000 square feet of retail – plus the 100,000-square-foot Wegmans store – complements the development’s 232-unit apartment community as well as Stanley Martin’s townhome community.

Torchy’s Tacos, Cava and Nothing Bundt Cakes were among the retailers that opened in phase one of Grove 98 in [2023](#). Sleep Number, Ideal Dental and One Medical also opened in the first phase

Ross Diachenko with Foundry Commercial handles leasing at Grove 98.

Stiles, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has regional offices in Charlotte and Nashville, Tennessee.