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Kroger gas station in Fairfield may open by end of year

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By Eric Robinette

Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — The long-awaited Kroger gas station is expected to open its doors late this year or early next year, depending on the weather, officials said Wednesday.

Construction crews have knocked down what the city said were long-standing eyesores of the former Flowerama store and a former Taco Bell at the intersection of Pleasant Avenue and Nilles Road.

That process had been expected to take place much earlier this year, but some difficulties finalizing contracts held up the project, said Monte Chesko, a real estate manager for Kroger.

Tim Bachman, the director of development for the city of Fairfield, said he expects construction of the gas station to be complete around the end of 2013 or the beginning of 2014.

The new facility will be different from most Kroger gas stations in that it will include a full-fledged 1,000-square-foot convenience store instead of a small kiosk. The change was necessitated after resistance from the city's planning commission, which did not favor fueling stations in the area close to Village Green, where the city's Kroger is located.

The convenience store will employ about two people, Chesko said.

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