

# Meijer Lansing Distribution Complex Celebrates 50 Years of Innovation and Ongoing Growth

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Meijer Lansing Distribution Complex stands as a testament to our ongoing commitment to innovation and growth. Established in 1974, we strategically positioned the complex to support our expanding retail footprint across Michigan and beyond.

Our journey began in 1971 with the acquisition of prime land in southwest Lansing, chosen for its central location that was pivotal for our growing operations. By 1972, the Meijer Ypsilanti store was already under construction, marking the onset of our ambitious expansion strategy in the state.

The opening of the Lansing facility in 1974 was a significant milestone, boasting a sprawling 14-acre warehouse equipped with cutting-edge technology. At its heart was the SI Ordermatic, often called the "Big Blue Monster," which was a pioneering automated system that revolutionized warehousing efficiency. This technological marvel not only streamlined our operations but also underscored our early adoption of advanced logistics solutions.

Retired Meijer Team Member Dick Wiersma began working at the complex in 1974. Dick started as a selector alongside the Big Blue Monster and eventually transitioned into logistics, embodying the growth opportunities we offer our team members. His story, like many others, reflects the personal and professional growth nurtured within our operations.

"For a while there, I was at the end of that machine, loading the carts and pushing them over to the truck bays," Dick shared.

The complex's impact extended beyond grocery logistics; 1974 also saw the establishment of a dedicated facility for fleet maintenance, emphasizing our holistic approach to infrastructure development. Throughout the decade, our expansions continued with additions like cold storage facilities and specialized areas for produce, dairy, and general merchandise, cementing Lansing's pivotal role in our supply chain network.

Simon Reiffer, another long-time team member who is now retired, started in a Grand Rapids store at age 16. Simon first transferred to the Walker Distribution Center, then moved to Lansing in 1977. For him, it was an opportunity to be near the top of the seniority list in a new warehouse.

"Looking back, Meijer was a great place to work," said Simon. "They treated me well and helped me when I needed it."

Today, the Meijer Lansing Distribution Complex spans over 2.7 million square feet, employing more than 2,500 Meijer team members across various operational sectors. Modern advancements, such as the WITRON automated warehousing system, continue to uphold our tradition of innovation. Forward-thinking initiatives like electric semi-trucks and autonomous vehicle testing further underscore our commitment to sustainability and technological advancement in logistics.

As we celebrate fifty years of the Lansing Distribution Complex, this milestone serves as a tribute to our resilient spirit and the thousands of dedicated team members who have contributed to our success. Looking ahead, the complex remains integral to our future, promising continued innovation and growth in the evolving retail landscape. Cheers to fifty years of excellence, and here's to the decades to come!

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Additional assets available online: [Photos](#) <sup>(6)</sup>

