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Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 6:56pm EDT

Ross Park Mall to get California Pizza Kitchen, Apple store

Pittsburgh Business Times - by [Tim Schooley](#)

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Ross Park Mall will be adding a few new high-profile tenants to its mix, bringing in a retailer with the most-hyped product in the country right now along with a restaurant chain that has helped to popularize a West Coast approach to pizza.

The mall has landed the region's third **Apple** store and its first location for **California Pizza Kitchen**, a chain that has considered Pittsburgh-area locations for the past few years before an expected deal at Ross, the region's fifth-largest mall.

Indianapolis-based **Simon Property Group**, which owns three local malls, expects to make an announcement tomorrow morning, Thursday, April 7, at its Ross Park Mall property and a local spokesman said he couldn't comment on any new tenants pending the announcement.

But Apple, so much in the media spotlight due to its debut of its iPad tablet computer last Saturday, is soliciting for staff for a new store at Ross Park Mall on its Website, www.apple.com. Simon Property Group has included Apple on its site plan for Ross Park Mall as early as 2006, which the mall was preparing for the arrival of Nordstrom. Apple already has locations at South Hills Village and in Shadyside.

California Pizza Kitchen recently acquired a liquor license for a new restaurant at Ross Park Mall through Ross-based restaurant services firm Specialty Group.

Ned Sokoloff, a principal of Specialty Group, confirmed that his company sold the license to California Pizza Kitchen.

"The transfer will be starting shortly," Sokoloff said. "If there's no protest, it should get done in eight weeks or less."

The two new tenants mark the latest upgrade in the mix of stores and restaurants at Ross Park Mall since Simon opened the region's first Nordstrom department store there in October 2008. In a gradual transition, Ross Park Mall has seen such stores and restaurants as The Cheesecake Factory, Tiffany & Co., Kate Spade and **Louis Vuitton** open in recent years.

David Glickman, a vice president who specializes in retail leasing in the Downtown Pittsburgh office of **Grubb & Ellis Co.**, said both an Apple store and California Pizza Kitchen will fit in well with the growing draw at Ross Park.

"California Pizza Kitchen is very popular. It's a very well run restaurant," he said. "Those are two significant draws that make a lot of sense for Ross Park Mall."



Tim Schooley covers retail, real estate, small business, hospitality and media for the **Pittsburgh Business Times**.

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