



[V. Richard's](#), the long-time (read: nearly 20 years) specialty grocery store located in Birmingham's Forest Park neighborhood [announced it was closing today via a post to its fan page on Facebook](#).

According to the photo included, the retailer's lease was broken and everything must go, resulting in

50% discounts off of all meat, grocery, and produce items. There are no plans to reopen this business in another location (per the link included in [our update](#)). The news was shared a little less than four hours before [the Microlove open house at Naked Art Gallery this evening](#). The closure means the closest grocery store for area residents is the Piggly Wiggly located at 3314 Clairmont Avenue.



[Its entry on Bhamwiki](#) provides a fairly complete history of the retailer. The business had operated along Clairmont Avenue since 1995, beginning with a space at 3908. It moved into its current location, 3916 Clairmont Avenue — the building formerly occupied by Payless Drugs, in 2004. It allowed for more space, seating for dining, and a considerable increase in customer parking.

V. Richard's had explored expansion in the Birmingham market twice. It opened a second location in Homewood in 1999 but it closed within 18 months. [The grocer had also been announced as an anchor tenant in 2010 for the long-awaited renovation of the Pizitz Building](#) in Birmingham's City Center, but as the project faced continuous delays it backed out.

The grocery's parent company still operates [Catherine's Market](#), located at Lake Martin as part of the [Russell Crossroads](#) development. Another property once associated with the company, Enzo's Market in Chattanooga, TN, [closed in June 2014](#) and was replaced with a concept store called

[Grocery Bar](#). The V. Richard's name will live on, however — [the Brookfield, WI location bought from the Littles in 2002](#) still uses it ([albeit in a smaller space than it first occupied](#)).

UPDATE: [Bryan Davis of the Birmingham Business Journal](#) reports an inability of owner Ricky Little and the landlord to come to terms on a new lease agreement as the reason for the unexpected closing.

Photo: *Courtesy of the V. Richard's fan page on Facebook.*