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New Staten Island T.J. Maxx to open Sunday



Construction of the second phase of Charleston's Bricktown Commons will be complete by next month, and open for the holiday shopping season, according to its developer. (Staten Island Advance/Tracey Porpora)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The first new store, a 22,000-square-foot T.J. Maxx, will open in Charleston's Bricktown Commons on Sunday.

The two other big box stores in the newly-completed center -- a 22,000-square-foot Michael's Arts & Crafts, and a 12,000-square-foot Ulta Beauty store -- will open on Nov. 13 and Dec. 4 respectively, according to John Cohen, a principal in the Long Island-based Blumenfeld Development Group, which is developing the site with Guido Passarelli & Son, a Dongan Hills-based business.

"We are happy we will have all the retailers open for the holiday shopping season," he said.

Local shoppers can start shopping at the new T.J. Maxx at 8 a.m. on Sunday. The store will be open until 8 p.m., and reusable bags will be given to the first 1,000 customers.

"We are pleased to expand our store base to Staten Island, delivering value and an exciting selection of merchandise to serve the needs of customers," said Richard Sherr, president of T.J. Maxx.

"With thousands of new items from top designers and brands arriving in stores weekly from around the world, shoppers will discover a new store full of amazing values every time they visit," he added.

In addition to providing a new shopping option for local residents, the new store will add approximately 60 full- and part-time jobs to the area, according to T.J. Maxx.

In celebration of its new location, T.J. Maxx will contribute to the surrounding community by presenting a \$5,000 donation to Trinity Lutheran Church Inc. at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 1 at 7:30 a.m.

MICHAEL'S ARTS & CRAFTS

While there is a "soft opening" of the store open Nov. 13, an official ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Nov. 15 at Bricktown Commons' new Michael's.

On that day, Michael's will be giving away more than \$1,500 in gift cards and prizes.

"We are thrilled to be joining the Staten Island community and we hope everyone will come out to help us celebrate during our grand opening," said Chris Scaturro, Michael's district manager. "Our new store features thousands of products that will inspire every crafter at any level from beginner to expert, plus classes for our customers to learn new skills.

The store features an open design with wider aisles, warm colors and brighter lighting. Key departments are expanded and re-organized for easy shopping," he added.

MORE TENANTS TO COME

There is an additional 100,000-square-foot of available retail space in the new center -- which promises 180,000 square feet in total -- that has yet to be leased.

Cohen said he is negotiating with several tenants (for the available space) now, but leases have yet to be signed.

\$50 MILLION MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

The project is part of the more than \$50 million Charleston mixed-use development plan on 88 acres that calls for two retail centers, a K-8 public school, a 15,000-square-foot library, senior housing complex and Fairview Park, which are projected to be complete by 2020.

The new portion of Bricktown Commons has been built on an 11-acre parcel, located adjacent to the Christmas Tree Shops, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Petco, Target and Applebees. Those retailers opened on 42 acres in Bricktown Centre in 2007.

This phase of the project will add 600 parking spaces to the 1,700 already at the site, said Cohen.