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New Charleston retail center to be open for holiday shopping



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. -- 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.

Opening just in time for the holiday shopping season will be a 22,000-square-foot T.J. Maxx; 22,000-square-foot Michael's Arts & Crafts, and a 12,000-square-foot Ulta Beauty store, said 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.

"The retailers are all eager to open. ...We think it will be a great addition to the existing retail we have in the project," said Cohen, referring to the portion of Bricktown Centre that opened in 2007.

"The construction will be complete in early November, with the first building with T.J. MAXX, Michael's and Ulta Beauty coming online," said Cohen, noting it will be up to the individual retailers when each store officially opens.

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.

"We are negotiating with several tenants (for the available space) now. None have been signed yet. We hope to sign leases this fall for tenants in those buildings. The fourth building, which faces the T.J. MAXX, Michael's and Ulta Beauty building, won't commence construction until early 2016.

\$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.

NEW LIBRARY BRANCH

The New York Public Library is in the early stages of designing the new library branch, which will be built in conjunction with the city Department of Design and Construction. Ground is expected to be broken on the new facility in 2017, said Angela Montefinise, a library spokeswoman.