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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## Community center to open at new Charlesview complex in Allston

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 16, 2013 02:07 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

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A grand opening ceremony for a community center at the new Charlesview Residences development in Allston will be held this weekend, organizers announced.

About 350 people are expected to attend to mark the completion of the Josephine A. Fiorentino Community Center at an event Sunday, July 21, from 2 to 4 p.m., said a statement from Charlesview Inc. an interdenominational nonprofit that runs the development.

The center, located inside the newly opened Charlesview complex along Western Avenue, features a computer room outfitted by Google, community meeting space, common areas, and classrooms where programming for adults and childrens will be held, officials said.

The center is named after the founder and a long-time board president of Charlesview Inc., who championed the Charlesview redevelopment project.

After this weekend, the community center will be available for special events and meetings, officials said. The space will be fully operational in the fall.

The opening event Sunday will include food, an ice cream truck, and a short

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speaking program, organizers said.

The new complex, nicknamed "Charlesview 2," is a \$200-million public-private project built at the Brighton Mills Shopping Center to relocate and expand the outdated Charlesview residential complex, or "Charlesview 1," which is located several blocks away. Part of the effort included Charlesview, Inc. and Harvard University agreeing to swap properties.

Over nearly a decade, the project's plans stalled at times and evolved as residents raised and debated concerns over its scope and design. A slew of community meetings created tension particularly between the neighborhood and the city's redevelopment authority and also between residents and Harvard.

The project [broke ground](#) in spring 2011 and its first phase of 240 mixed-income rental units [opened last month](#). Another 100 homeownership units will open in later phases of the project. The development also includes new retail space, a park and a parking garage.

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