

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pembroke Pines City Center to Open This Month

BY DEBBY TEICH

On April 19, the Pembroke Pines City Commission will celebrate the grand opening of the long-awaited Pembroke Pines City Center, located at 601 City Center Way. The public is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony, which will begin at 2pm, followed by light refreshments. Between 2pm and 5pm, tours will be offered of the new City Hall; Commission Chamber; state-of-the-art performance/conference space; and The Frank, the multi-disciplinary, two-story art gallery and learning space.

Nestled between Mediterranean style residences, a variety of restaurants and stores, the multi-use modern facility offers 35,000 square feet of flexible space. It will serve the community by hosting events such as conventions, concerts, meetings and trade shows, and facilitating local events which will promote civic, educational and community pride.

Some of the features include:

- A new city hall, with state-of-the-art technology, will be located on the fourth floor. The current city hall is technologically obsolete and can no longer support the city's current technology needs cost effectively. It will be torn down to create a hotel complex to support the City Center.
- A larger and more accommodating Commission Chambers will house city commission and advisory board meetings. It can also be used for smaller



A rendering of the new Pembroke Pines City Center.

indoor events.

- On the third, second and ground levels of the Civic Center, residents will have meeting places, as well as a Great Hall capable of seating 3,600 and providing a wide variety of events including concerts, community occasions, and more. Additionally, the seating folds into the walls to allow for a large open space capable of accommodating trade shows, conventions and even large scale dining, as a full service kitchen is also part of the complex.

- **The Frank** is a two-story art gallery named after Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank C. Ortis for his decades-long commitment to the cultural arts. It will showcase multi-disciplinary inclusive exhibitions to foster connections, initiate cultural change and promote innovation. The gallery's exhibition and learning space will serve as a site of convergence for artists, performers, thought leaders and community members to create partnerships for social engagement, leveraging the power of the arts to create a sense of place. The Frank offers art as experience.

- In a large open space in the front of the Center, there will be a variety of outdoor events and cultural enjoyment opportunities.

■ For information, visit www.pembrokepinescitycenter.org.