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# Michaels to open North Babylon store

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Specialty arts and crafts retailer The Michaels Cos. Inc. will open a new store this weekend in a long-vacant location in the Deer Park Plaza shopping center in North Babylon, near the Deer Park Village line.

The new 25,147-square-foot store, at 20 Deer Shore Square, will employ more than 60 people. The store features an open design with wide aisles, warm colors and bright lighting.

The store opens to the public for a "soft" opening on Friday at 9 a.m. The grand opening on Sunday is at 10 a.m.

"We are thrilled to be joining the Deer Park community," district manager Neil Kravitz said in a statement.

The location was vacated by former mall anchor tenant Sears Hardware more than two years ago, after that company began closing poorly performing locations in 2012. The open-air shopping center also includes a Mama Sbarro's pizza shop.

Irving, Texas-based Michaels owns and operates 1,168 Michaels stores in 49 states and Canada.

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