Exciting time at 1265 Main

It was an event years in the making.

Last week, Jake n JOES sports grille became the first business to open at the former Polaroid site at 1265 Main St. Marshalls is scheduled to follow Thursday with a ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony, and Market Basket has been holding open job interviews all this week.

It’s an exciting time for Waltham.

The mood at the Jake n JOES party last Wednesday, the night before it officially opened, was pretty electric. Guests seemed quite happy to be there and to have a business open at the site.

And it looks like a good one – the restaurant has many large televisions ideal for watching sports, inside and outside. As a bonus, the restaurant is the latest venture for the Nocera family, a longtime staple of the Waltham community. Besides owning the Chateau restaurants, the family has already opened Jake n JOES restaurants in Norwood and Foxboro. According to its website, the Waltham location is only open for dinner at this time, but will be opening for lunch soon.

Marshalls marks the first store to open at the site. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The festivities include giveaways, gift card prizes and more.

The store will also contribute to the local community by presenting a $5,000 donation to Jewish Family & Children’s Service at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 9 at 7:30 a.m.

Marshalls bills itself as one of the nation’s largest off-price retailers with more than 960 stores. Importantly, in addition to providing a new shopping option for local residents, the store will add about 60 full- and part-time jobs to the area, according to the business.

And to think, a year ago at this time, the development was in a rather dicey situation because of the turmoil at Market Basket, as Mayor Jeannette McCarthy announced that all construction at the site had been suspended indefinitely.

Due to the litigation between shareholders of Market Basket – the development’s biggest tenant – the multimillion-dollar project’s developers ceased receiving payment, McCarthy said. At the time, Market Basket was in the middle of a power struggle between cousin shareholders Arthur T. Demoulas and Arthur S. Demoulas.

Thankfully, Market Basket signed a lease earlier this year and that seemingly endless power struggle appears to be over, with Arthur T. Demoulas taking the reins of the company. Market Basket is expected to open in December.

For drivers along Rte. 128, the former Polaroid site has been an eyesore for years. But now drivers and residents of this community are seeing real progress.

Instead of empty space, passersby will see businesses and packed parking lots, like the one at Jake n JOES last week. Hopefully the development will feature good signage to draw consumers in.

The site will one day be a one-stop shopping experience for many, with more businesses expected there soon, including a Starbucks and a couple of other restaurants. You’ll be able to grab a cup of coffee, do some retail and food shopping, have a nice meal and catch a game if you like.

McCarthy has said the property had been dormant for 10 years. So it’s surely taken longer than many hoped, but the payoff at 1265 Main should be truly exceptional.
From left to right, Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, Marshalls store manager Laurie Valorie, and Jewish Family & Children’s Service CEO Rimma Zelfand celebrated the grand opening of the new Marshalls store at 1265 Main St. As the selected Community Partner Organization for the new store, JF&CS was presented with a $5,000 check from the TJX Foundation. The donation will be put toward the Meaningful Days program, which provides employment training and support for people with disabilities. Marshalls has recently hired one of the JF&CS Meaningful Days participants to work in the store. COURTESY PHOTO