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CHC To Offer Tours Of New Middletown Building On Saturday

By SHAWN R. BEALS, sbeals@courant.com

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MIDDLETOWN —

The Community Health Center will open its new, three-story, 48,000-square-foot primary care building at 675 Main St. on Saturday.

The \$17 million building will consolidate all of the organization's medical, dental and behavioral health care locations in Middletown.

Free tours will be offered Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. The building's opening also coincides with Community Health Center's 40th anniversary.

Mark Masselli, the chief executive officer of CHC, said the building used energy-efficient materials, has a "green roof," community meeting space and a "pod"

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system of healthcare that allows several doctors to collaborate on the different health needs of patients.

"This building takes advantage of an enormous amount of technology," Masselli said.

Doctors will be able to set up "e-consults" with patients using video conferencing that will cut down on unnecessary doctor visits, Masselli said.

The roof of the building has solar panels; rainwater collection; a beehive; community gardens; walls lined with creeping plants to insulate the heating and air conditioning systems; and a conference room with floor-to-ceiling glass panels providing views of downtown Middletown and the Arrigoni Bridge.

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"Green is a large part of what we've been thinking about," Masselli said.

Mayor Daniel Drew said Friday the CHC investment in Middletown will have a positive impact on the city, especially the North End.

"It's incredible for us to see the construction of this building and their vision for Middletown come to fruition," Drew said. "The Community Health Center is an anchor for Middletown."

He said the new building could have an "astounding economic impact" on Main Street.

The building was funded with a \$7 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, \$2.5 million from the State Bond Commission and CHC financing for the remainder.

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