

PRESS RELEASE

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2015: A Great Year for Downtown Cranford

Last year, Downtown Cranford welcomed more new businesses, continued public improvements and launched several exciting new events for visitors to the business district. In 2015, five new restaurants opened adding even more dining choices to the downtown described as "the up and coming dining destination in North Jersey" by the Star Ledger. Downtown dining choices now include Ambeli Greek Taverna, River & Rail Mexican Cantina, Ciao Bello, Tablespoon and Siam Inn.

New shops, like Anthem Style+Accessories, Swimsuit Junction, Alfonso's Pastry Shoppe, and River & Rail Wine and Spirits along with several personal service businesses like Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Esthetique Skin Care and Giggles, a modern take on children's indoor play, are attracting people of all ages.

"These new businesses and other significant investments and improvements, all contributed to a very successful year and lower than average vacancy rate," said Mayor Andis Kalnins. The downtown ended the year with a 96% first floor occupancy rate.

Downtown Director Kathleen Miller Prunty said interest in downtown remains very strong and several new businesses will open in the next few months. "In addition, several established businesses moved to larger locations or undergoing major renovations. These investments are the surest sign of confidence in Cranford", she added.

The residential population has also grown with the completion of Transit-Oriented projects bringing more people within steps of stores, restaurants and services. Riverfront at Cranford Station includes nine retail businesses and several offices, as well as 126 luxury apartments. Woodmont Station in Cranford, which opened in the Spring, has a 100% occupancy rate. These projects, along with Cranford Crossing built in 2005, are all within walking distance of the train and businesses.

The streets were bustling during Spring, Summer and Fall with lots of new events like Lego Night, giant sidewalk games, Yoga in the Street, concerts, Sip & Shop and outdoor farm market. The popular 8th Annual Scarecrow Stroll, with almost

100 scarecrows, drew a big audience and attracted people from 74 towns in NJ, NY and Pennsylvania.

“We look forward to welcoming more businesses in 2016 and continuing work improvements in the downtown,” said Mayor Kalnins.

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