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Business is good at the Gateway

Survey shows Christmas shoppers were happy with Kohl's; Lowe's grand opening set for today

By LINDSAY OLIVIER

NORTH KINGSTOWN — The Christmas shopping season ended on a high note for businesses in Quonset and The Gateway.

A survey conducted by New Boston Fund showed that shoppers had great things to say about their shopping experiences and are looking forward to the opening of Lowe's on Jan. 15 and Dave's Marketplace in the spring.

Many shoppers described Kohl's as "upscale" and "well put-together."

The informal survey was taken by over 100 Quonset Business Park tenants and residents from the surrounding communities, with 83.7 percent saying they've already taken advantage of the shopping at the Gateway or plan to in the future.

Eighty-five percent said they would like a variety of restaurants at The Gateway.

"This reinforces our development plans for The Gateway. With over 8,500 employees coming to work at the business park every day, we knew we had to include several options for restaurants to serve not only business park tenants, but the nearby communities as well," said Patrick Cleary of New Boston Fund.

In addition to restaurants, those surveyed indicated they also wanted to see a hotel, bank, florist, dry cleaner, print and copy shop and a beauty salon.

"Come next week, we're hoping to make public one restaurant that will sign on for the project. In the future we may have more surveys, because that's the tool that'll let us know what people are thinking,

because those are the ones who'll be utilizing the park," said Dyana Koelsch from New Harbor Group.

New Boston Fund is currently offering retail spaces from 1,000 to 6,500 square-feet and office spaces from 1,000 to 10,000 square-feet.

"I personally will enjoy Dave's and will use the other stores. I can't wait to see who else will be opening," said one survey respondent.

The Quonset Gateway is a mixed-use development by New Boston Development Partners that serves as the front door to the Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown. Encompassing 72.5-acres, The Gateway at full build out will represent a \$144 million private investment. The first phase of the development includes the Shops at Quonset, a retail open air center, with restaurants, office space and a hotel.

New Boston Fund is a full-service real estate acquisition, development, management and investment firm with over \$1.4 billion in assets under management.