



Self-Reliant Communities

For Immediate Release

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Historic Diner Finds New Home with Isles



Hamilton, N.J. – Trenton-based community development organization Isles, Inc. and the developer Modern Recycled Spaces™ are stepping in to save the historic Calhoun Street Diner on Route 1 in Lawrenceville. Isles' President Marty Johnson notes, "First, it's important to save the diner from the landfill, and if we can bring it back to the Trenton area and restore it here, it's a win for everyone."

The diner is being donated by its owner, SSL Realty Holding. Modern Recycled Spaces and Isles will relocate the diner to be adjacent to their 200,000 square foot mixed-use redevelopment project known as Mill One. Mill One is located at the intersection of Nottingham Way and North Johnston Avenue in Hamilton. "The protection and reuse of this diner is what Mill One is all about," says Daniel Popkin of Modern Recycled Spaces.

Isles and Modern Recycled Spaces will work to raise funds to restore the diner. Popkin states, "Modern Recycled Spaces and Mill One's mission to restore grand old structures into new spaces for start up and creative businesses and non-profits will utilize the diner as a magnet for new energy for the site. The polished aluminum will be a great contrast to the old wood and brick of this great former luggage and clothing factory!"

The diner will be moved sometime in the month of June. It currently sits on land adjacent to the previous home of Mrs. G TV & Appliance store, set to be cleared for the Lawrence Commons shopping center.

With its growing network of community and school gardens, Isles plans to incorporate the diner into additional classroom space for vocational training, including food preparation efforts.

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The diner is thought to have been built by the Mountain View Diner Company in the early 1950's. Originally located in Trenton, it was first known as the Calhoun Street Diner. The diner was moved to Lawrenceville in the 1960's where it was named successively the Cass Diner, Giordano Diner, and Ben's Diner.

"Kids and young adults will benefit from the restoration and reuse of the iconic diner," says Marty Johnson. "The first step is to save it. The next step is to raise the funds to renovate it! We look forward to the chance to bring it back to a good life."

For additional information or to make a donation to support the diner, please contact David Schraye, Isles' Mill One Director, at 609-341-4792 or dschraye@isles.org or Daniel Popkin at 609-731-2156 or dpopkin@firstprops.com

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