

Barnegat Acme almost ready to open its doors



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(Photo: PETER ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

BARNEGAT - [Barnegat's Acme \(/story/news/local/southern-ocean-county/2016/01/13/acme-open-flagship-store-barnegat-village-square-february/78753176/\)](#) finally has a grand opening date.

"No one wants to have to drive far to get groceries, so to have (a supermarket) in town ... it's a boost for residents to be able to run to a local supermarket," said Sue McCabe, a Barnegat Township committeewoman.

The conversion of the old Genuardi's into Acme will be complete and open to customers Feb 5.

Genuardi's, Barnegat's only supermarket, closed in December 2012 and has stood vacant since.

One reason the 50,000-square-foot building at 912 W. Bay Ave. may have remained vacant can be attributed to its location, said supermarket analyst [Matthew Casey, based in Clark \(http://www.mpcaseyassociates.com/\)](#).



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[Acme supermarket to open in Barnegat](#)

(<http://www.app.com/story/news/local/southern-ocean-county/barnegat/2015/08/18/acme-supermarket-replaces-barnegat-genuardis/31936747/>)

"I don't know if Acme is strong enough to take enough sales from the behemoth of ShopRite to make this work," Casey said. "I hope I'm wrong, I hope they do very well there, but the site does have its challenges."

A ShopRite in Stafford and ShopRite in Waretown flank Barnegat.

Low population density and the strength of surrounding supermarkets — which includes a Costco in Stafford — will pose a challenge for the Acme, Casey said.

The Township Committee is aware of the challenges, McCabe said.

"We're so grateful for Acme to come. I do hope and expect residents to support their local supermarket," McCabe said. "Our town needs to patronize the supermarket; now that we've got it, we need to keep it."



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[5 local A&Ps, Superfresh become Acme](#)

(<http://www.app.com/story/money/business/2015/11/06/ap-pathmark-superfresh-closing-acme/74864306/>)



The new Acme in Barnegat fills a space left empty since Genuardi's moved out in 2012. (Photo: PETER ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Supermarket desert

“Let’s face it, the town became a (supermarket desert) and now we’re finally back to having a major anchor store like Acme coming in, it’s going to be a positive, it really is. I think that most of the businesses in town feel that it will only be a positive,” said Jerry Thompson, president of Barnegat’s Chamber of Commerce and chairman of its economic development committee.

Acme has been growing. Last year, The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. said it wanted to sell 120 stores and close 25 more after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Acme purchased five former A&P and Superfresh supermarkets, including one in Stafford.

Supporting the Barnegat Acme will hopefully bring other businesses to the community, said Mayor John Novak.

“It shows what happens when you have a Township Committee that is actively engaged in promoting the municipality for commerce and business,” Novak said. “We’re encouraging all of our residents to patronize, so (Acme) can be successful, and so that we can (have) other businesses come to community.”

Despite the location’s potential difficulties, having more locations is good for the brand, Casey said.



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(<http://www.app.com/story/news/local/southern-ocean-county/barnegat/2016/01/27/watch-big-housing-plans-old-barnegat-mine/79354896/>)



Acme fills the space previously occupied by Genuardi's, which closed in 2012. (Photo: FILE PHOTO)

Support the supermarket

"It will definitely give them a stronger chain here in the New York, New Jersey market," said Casey. "Absolutely stronger buying power, better ads, better presence (and) better name recognition."

A lot of people associate the company with the Acme of old, without realizing it's under new ownership – the brand was acquired in 2013 by Albertson's (<http://www.albertsons.com/our-company/newsroom/albertsons-llc-announces-definitive-agreement-for-purchase-of-877-stores-from-supervalu/>) – Casey said.

The chain is strong now.

"It's not the old Acme that we remember from Elizabeth, New Jersey, up on Route 22," he said. "You can see it's a new company, new ownership, doing things a lot better than the old company did."

For its part, Acme is willing to give Barnegat a shot.

"Acme is proud to be part of the Barnegat community. Our focus is providing our customers with fresh, full, friendly, and clean stores," a spokeswoman said.

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Barnegat police help elderly woman snowed in

(<http://www.app.com/story/news/local/southern-ocean-county/barnegat/2016/01/25/barnegat-police-help-elderly-woman-snow/79299740/>)

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