



PGA Tour Superstore Takes Former Babies R Us Space in New Jersey Golf Gear Retailer to Open Second Garden State Location as Former Toys R Us Properties Find Tenants

A PGA Tour Superstore plans to open a New Jersey location in a former Babies R Us that's been vacant for more than a year, as big-box sites left empty by the Toys R Us liquidation continue to find tenants.

The seller of golf equipment, apparel and accessories is set to occupy a 37,364-square-foot lease at 98 Route 10 W. in East Hanover, a property owned by Williams Parkway. The store, part of a Roswell, Georgia-based chain with about 40 brick-and-mortar locations across the nation, is scheduled to open in early 2020.

The space had been home to a Babies R Us, which was shuttered in the wake of the demise of its parent company, Wayne, New Jersey-based Toys R Us. The retailer first filed for Chapter 11 protection in September 2017, but a few months later in March it instead opted to liquidate its holdings and close all its stores, including its Babies R Us outlets, by the end of June 2018. Nearly 800 stores were marketed for sale, lease or redevelopment as part of the Toys R Us liquidation, according to a July report by Retail Specialists, a brokerage based in Birmingham, Alabama.

This year, U.S. store closings overall are pacing far ahead of last year, and some of the vacant space left by Toys R Us is finding occupants. Furniture retailers and discounters emerged as the top takers of former Toys R Us stores, according to the Retail Specialists report.

The Garden State's first PGA Tour Superstore, and the chain's first Northeast retail location, debuted in November 2012 at 295 Route 17 in Paramus, New Jersey. The Paramus site has 57,000 square feet. The chain is operated by Golf & Tennis Pro Shop, whose controlling owner and chairman is Arthur Blank, the co-founder of Home Depot and current owner of the Atlanta Falcons.

The new East Hanover store will be staffed with certified teaching professionals and offer golf lessons and clinics, and will feature multiple state-of-the-art swing simulators, practice hitting bays and a large putting green. There will also be an in-house club making and repair facility. Along with equipment and accessories, and like its counterpart in Paramus, the PGA Tour Superstore will offer men's, women's and juniors' apparel and footwear for golf and tennis.

Route 10, where the store will be located, is a busy corridor with many retail, dining and entertainment offerings. It also has quick access to major highways Routes 80 and 287.

For the Record

The Newmark Knight Frank team of Managing Director Dean Tselepis and Director Jerry Putterman represented the owner, while Hugh Scullin, vice president of real estate for Katz & Associates, represented PGA Tour Superstore.