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## Acting Governor Kim Guadagno Marks Unofficial Start of Summer Season With Visit To Highlands Businesses

Thursday, May 22, 2014

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**Trenton, NJ** - Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today kicked off the summer season with ceremonial ribbon cuttings at four Sandy-impacted restaurants in Highlands. All located on Bay Avenue in Highlands, these businesses have reopened and are ready for business.

"Highlands has continued to show resilience as they continue to cope with the devastating destruction of homes and businesses," said Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. "All across our state communities large and small are transforming and rebuilding. As we enter the summer months this Administration remains committed to the rebuilding process and we encourage everyone to continue to support these areas and make them a destination during your summer travels."

Severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy, Highlands saw more than 1080 homes flooded and 14 downtown restaurants were either damaged or destroyed including those visited today by Acting Governor Guadagno.

- The Highlands Pancake House officially opened for business on April 27, 2014. The Bay Avenue restaurant is located at the former site of Laura's Pancake House which was badly damaged during the storm. The Highlands Pancake House offers an extensive menu and is open seven days a week from 7AM to 10PM.
- Owner Ralph Amado opened Havana Tropical Café in 2007. The restaurant offers traditional Cuban dishes for lunch and dinner. The Café frequently has live music and on various nights celebrates law enforcement, military service and firemen with authentic Cuban flare. Tropical Havana Café is located at 409 Bay Avenue.
- Claddagh Irish Pub is an authentic Irish restaurant and pub in the Highlands serving traditional Irish American cuisine. Damaged by Super Storm Sandy and forced to close for renovations, Owner Ara Jamgochian has remodeled the popular eatery offering an array of menu options. Claddagh Irish Pub prides itself on friendly customer service and lively environment with a rich Irish interior design.
- Founded in 1999 by its owner Leo Cervantes, Chilangos is an authentic Mexican restaurant and bar. Serving traditional Mexican dishes for lunch and dinner the restaurant also offers a full service catering menu for large groups and parties. Known for its hospitality the restaurant seats 65 and has an extensive tequila menu with more than 270 varieties. Chilangos has received praise from The New York Times and has been recognized in the ZAGAT SURVEY for five consecutive years. The restaurant has also attracted celebrities including Sting, Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen. "We are very thankful to Acting Governor Guadagno for coming to Highlands," said Mayor Frank Nolan. "Her visit today highlights the excellent restaurants we have to offer and comes at the perfect time as we head into the Memorial Day weekend as we continue to thrive after Superstorm Sandy."

Today's events comes off the heels of the Acting Governor's visit to Keyport last week to officially open the Bay Shore for the summer season. The event, hosted by the Northern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce and held at the IHOP on Rt. 36, signified the importance of the Bay Shore area as the gateway to the Jersey Shore.

Businesses considering a move or in need of assistance are encouraged to call New Jersey's Business Action Center at (866) 534-7789 or visit the State's Business Portal at [www.newjerseybusiness.gov](http://www.newjerseybusiness.gov).

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