



CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Coleman Distributors Has Hot New Location And Cool New Space.

Leading Northern Westchester's Supplier of Heating And Cooling Products Expands Both Square Footage and Offerings.

"Grand Opening Day" Will Take Place on Wednesday, May 19, With Refreshments Provided All Day and A Ribbon-Cutting At 5:00 p.m.

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Mayor John Testa
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PEEKSKILL, NY—In a win for Peekskill's history and businesses, Coleman Distributors has found a new home that's bigger and better than any space it's ever occupied before.

Coleman's move into its new facility on 1000 Lower South Street is the final step in a process that will end in the conversion of the company's former locale into a museum celebrating Abraham Lincoln and the city's complex and fascinating historic heritage.

With its 10,000 square feet of space and 12 foot ceilings, the new building will allow Coleman, one of Northern Westchester's leading wholesale distributors of heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment to carry more products and present them more attractively.

Peekskill city officials and Coleman owners Mel and Harriet Gottesfeld and their son Andrew worked together for many months to arrive at a solution that worked for everyone. “We tremendously appreciate the Gottesfeld’s patience and willingness to compromise,” says Mayor John Testa. “I’m pleased we’ve arrived at a solution that seems to work for everyone.”

An invaluable resource for Northern Westchester construction firms and contractors, Coleman carries a complete line of heating, ventilating and air conditioning products. The company’s roster of offerings by respected suppliers includes Selkirk Metalbestos, Bard, Southwark Metal, Lima, Lambro, CFM Fan, and Lennox-Superior gas and wood fireplaces.

In addition, Coleman has just added Pro-Tech, Rheem HVAC and the Reznor heater line to its product menu. In addition, Coleman has a complete sheet metal fabrication shop. The company excels in rapid turnaround of special orders, its owners say.

A Peekskill fixture for more than half a century, Coleman was founded by World War II hero Joseph Bloome. Bloome served as a bomber pilot in the South Pacific, where he was shot down three times. After the war, Bloome wrote a letter to Coleman Manufacturing complementing them on their survival stove.

Coleman Survival Stoves were part of the package included in bomber’s survival kits. Bloome felt that the stove’s help with distilling water and cooking fish played a key role in his and his crew’s survival. Coleman officials so appreciated the letter they offered Bloome a Peekskill dealership and supported him in starting up his business.

Though Coleman Distributing’s first store was on Main Street, a few years after it opened the company moved down to Peekskill’s waterfront. One of the buildings Coleman eventually used for storage was an old, unused train station at which Abraham Lincoln gave his only speech in Westchester on his way to the White House in 1861.

Bloome sold Coleman's to the Gottesfelds in 1988. They continued to use the Lincoln Train Station as a storage facility, but a few years ago New York State gave the City of Peekskill a grant to purchase the Lincoln Train Station and the property surrounding it.

The Gottesfelds worked with the City to arrive at a solution that kept their business open and allowed for the transformation of the Lincoln Train Station. "This is a true win/win situation," Testa says.

Coleman Distributors plans to celebrate the opening of its new facility On Wednesday, May 19 with a grand opening celebration that will include refreshments being served throughout the day, starting at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Testa will conduct an official ribbon-cutting at 5:00 p.m.

With its facility's high ceilings and wide-open-spaces, Coleman is presenting its goods attractively in a self-service format. The building at 1000 South Street is just a few feet South of the Louisa Street exit of Route Nine, and is only a couple of hundred yards from the major traffic artery itself.

Now that Coleman Distributing is in its new headquarters, work will soon be moving forward on the Lincoln Train Station Museum itself, Testa says.

For more information, contact: City of Peekskill: Mayor John Testa 914-734-4105; Coleman Distributing, Mel Gottesfeld, 914-737-3073.

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