

# Bounce! Trampoline Sports opens brand new park in Springfield Plaza (photos, video)



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SPRINGFIELD -The owners of the new [Bounce! Springfield Trampoline Sports](#) facility in the city say they are catching their new [Springfield Plaza](#) neighborhood on the rebound.

Partners Rob Doty, Greg Morgan and Bill Merrill, all out-of-town investors, quietly opened their 35,000-square-foot entertainment and activity park Jan. 30 and have a grand opening planned for Saturday, Feb. 6.

Doty and Morgan are onsite in Springfield and they have since hired a general manager. All told, they have hired 65 staff members with most of them serving part-time.

The trampoline park occupies 9 of the 16 theaters that were once part of [Entertainment Cinemas](#) and includes 16,000 square feet of trampolines.

The theaters closed in January of 2015. Since then, the Springfield Plaza has added a Dr. Dental dentist office in the past year or so.

That's a lot of spring in a visitor's step. The indoor bounce house includes play areas and foam pits set aside for children under the age of five, huge swaths of trampolines for adults and older kids, trampolines set up with basketball courts, three trampoline dodge ball courts, another foam pit for older kids and two "extreme" rooms set up with trampoline agility and obstacle courses reminiscent of the ["American Ninja Warrior"](#) television program.

In fact, one man is already frequenting Bounce! in hopes of training to be on the show, Doty said.

"It's his workout," Doty said. "We have been getting lots of customers already. People have come in and booked birthday parties."

Bounce! has private party rooms- one has its own trampoline areas so a party with young children could be kept separate from the rest of the facility.

Doty said young children take to the jumping pit cushioned with foam blocks and the springy trampolines.

"It's great to see the little kids get in here and just play," Doty said. "I get a kick out of just watching them."

Bounce! has a parents area with comfy chairs and plenty of TV screens. A video feed from the bounce areas will be on one of the monitors.

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Bounce! markets itself to families with children, obviously. But Morgan said they also hope to attract college students for dodgeball tournaments. Other Bounce! locations offer fitness classes one or two nights a week.

Of course, all that fun has the potential to devolve into chaos.

"Safety is our number one concern," Morgan said.

Each area of Bounce! will have at least one monitor clad in a referee striped shirt and armed with a walkie talkie. Monitors are in charge of enforcing rules and keeping kids safe.

"There won't be anyplace that isn't monitored," Morgan said.

Additionally, patrons are asked to [log onto the company's website and electronically sign the liability waiver](#) before heading there to play.

The head monitor came to Bounce! Springfield from the location in Poughkeepsie, New York. Doty and Merrill are partners at the Poughkeepsie location and Morgan knows them from that business.

Bounce has five franchised locations including Springfield and a location in Danbury, Connecticut, set to open soon.

Another similar company, [Launch Trampoline Park](#), has abandoned plans for its own trampoline park on Avocado Street in Springfield.

At Bounce! Springfield, maintenance and cleanliness are constant concerns, Morgan said. Workers are trained to regularly clean the trampoline surfaces and to clean and inspect the foam blocks in the jump pits.

There is also a separate cleaning service that comes in regularly for the entire facility.

Bounce also features a snack bar and arcade games, including an air hockey table.

Morgan and Doty explained that the location in the former theater is ideal.

The demographics are good with plenty of families in the area. And they are close to Interstate 91, I-290 and the MassPike.

Morgan said indoor trampoline parks are often hard to find a good location for since operators need a big open space.

"That often sends you to old warehouses," Morgan said. "But old warehouses often don't have enough parking. This place has plenty of parking."

He said the partners were thinking of building new nearby when the theater went out of business.

The facility is online at [www.bouncespringfield.com](http://www.bouncespringfield.com).

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