

Town of Wethersfield

Planning and Economic Development Department



Monthly Report September 2010

A Monthly Report from the Planning and Economic Development Department
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WELCOME!

- A new clothing store Red T at **150 Silas Deane Highway**.
- Interior fit out is complete at **1260 Silas Deane Highway** for renovation of remaining vacant space for the Connecticut MultiSpecialty Medical Group.
- Once Upon A Child - **1047 Silas Deane Highway** - Wethersfield Shopping Center has relocated into a larger space.
- **281 Main Street** - Studio 281 Makeup has opened.
- Iris Nails and Spa has opened at **1841 Berlin Turnpike**.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- Exterior façade and interior improvements are underway by the owner of **526 Silas Deane Highway** (Ritz Camera). Funding assistance is being provided by the town.
- Exterior demolition is underway for a new façade at **990 Silas Deane Highway** (next To Mila Fabric). Funding assistance is being provided by the town.
- **Sapporo Restaurant** in the Goff Brook Shops has temporarily closed for remodeling and will reopen in the fall.
- **Webster Bank** 1039 Silas Deane Highway is in the midst of significant interior remodeling and renovations.
- A building permit has been filed for a medical testing lab **LabXpress** at 898 Silas Deane Highway (next to Pelton's).
- **Red Lobster** has submitted plans for new façade for their location at 1324 Silas Deane Highway.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Developer/Tenant Contacts

- Staff met with local property owner regarding plans for a new restaurant building on property.
- Working with site selector looking for a site for commercial tenant.
- Working with local realtor looking for site for tenant.
- Met with development group looking at potential redevelopment site.
- Met with design team working on site plan issues for Berlin Turnpike apartment project.

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- The 21st Annual **Salute to Business** is scheduled for Thursday evening December 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- **Wethersfield Shops Local** program continues to develop momentum. To date we have signed up over 100 businesses to participate.

Planning and Zoning Commission

- On July 20 and August 3 the commission held a hearing regarding proposed changes to the regulations regarding **commercial vehicles**. The commission requested staff to address some concerns and revise the proposal. The hearing will be continued to September 8.
- Elected a new slate of officers - Rich Roberts, Chairman; Joe Hammer, Vice Chair; and Tom Harley as Secretary.

Tourism

- Through an additional grant from the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism the commission placed an ad in a magazine insert that appeared in a variety of newspapers in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. To date, the spring/summer ad has generated over 4500 requests for information. A fall ad is also planned.
- The commission has prepared the attached Fall Event Calendar for 2010.
- The commission is working on a promotional piece that will be printed and appear on its website listing all local businesses and contact information for those who provide wedding related services in Wethersfield (churches, hotels/motels, banquet space, restaurants, caterers, bakeries, florists, rentals, photographers, transportation etc.).
- Hosted the Director of the International Press Association for a weekend tour of Old Wethersfield. Thanks to the Historical Society, Webb Museum and Shopkeepers Association for their assistance.

We received great feedback from the visit "I had an amazing time, and my companions were very pleased with the trip. We love your town - it isn't often that we come across a small place so filled with rich history and yet so peaceful and quiet. Everyone we met was incredibly hospitable and friendly. I am grateful for the time that was spent with us. It was a delight to visit Wethersfield!" We expect some good press coverage from this.

MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

September 2	Chamber 8:30 a.m.
September 8	PZC 7 p.m.
September 8	Shops Local 8:30 a.m.
September 9	EDIC 12 noon
September 21	PZC 7 p.m.
September 22	Shops Local 8:30 a.m.
September 28	Tourism Commission 5:30 p.m.

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