



TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

Planning and Economic Development Department Report July 2015

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RECENT PROJECTS

- **CREC Discovery Academy - 176 Cumberland Avenue.** Work is nearing completion for this new 70,000 s.f. elementary Magnet School. The PZC recently approved plans for a series of solar panels for the school. Occupancy is planned for September.
- **Double A Veterinary Clinic - 106 Nott Street.** Construction is complete for this small addition.
- **Griffiths Academy – 275 Main Street.** This property was recently renovated to better accommodate the needs of this dance academy.
- **Romp N Roll – 1267 Silas Deane Highway.** A CO was issued for a children’s gym in this 4,600 s.f. space formerly occupied by the Wooden Toy.
- **O’Reilly’s Auto Parts** A building permit has been issued to renovate space at 115 Silas Deane Highway.
- **Wethersfield Diner** – 718 Silas Deane Highway - Renovations are nearing completion to reopen the diner.
- **365 Maple Street** – Renovations are underway to open a dental office in this space.
- **Amanti Salon – 1281 Silas Deane Highway** – A hair salon has opened in this storefront in the Goff Brook Shops.
- **Medi Weight Loss – 1283 Silas Deane Highway** – Has opened in the Goff Brook Shops.
- **Kathy’s Urgent Care Center – 672 Silas Deane Highway** – Renovations are underway to convert this long standing vacant space into an urgent care clinic.
- **William Raveis Realty – 990 Silas Deane Highway** – Renovating this space in order to relocate.
- **Ear, Nose and Throat – 986 Silas Deane Highway** – Renovating this vacant space for medical office use.
- **1298 Silas Deane Highway – Denny’s Restaurant** – Recently completed interior and exterior renovations.
- **1394 Berlin Turnpike – Premier Rental**
- **1420 Berlin Turnpike – Falla’s**

- **1030 Silas Deane Highway – Angry Tofu – Korean Restaurant**
- **912 Silas Deane Highway – CT Psychological Center**
- **100 Great Meadow – Putnam Park** - CH2M Hill
- **100 Great Meadow – Putnam Park** – Modis

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION (EDIC)

- **Façade Improvement Program** The following projects were recently provided with assistance from this program:
 - 500 Silas Deane Highway – Corner Store
 - 672 Silas Deane Highway – Kathy's Urgent Care
- **On-Line Business Directory.** Staff are working on a new comprehensive on-line Wethersfield business directory. Conducted business mailing to the entire business community and received nearly 400 responses.
- **Welcome Wagon** – The Commission is working with the Chamber of Commerce and local realtors with the creation of an information packet that would be distributed to new residents and businesses to welcome them to the community. More details to follow.
- **Old Wethersfield Country Store - 221 Main Street.** A ribbon cutting was held in June for the Old Wethersfield Country Store in the space formerly occupied by River Rock Yoga.
- **River Rock Yoga – 286 Silas Deane Highway** A ribbon cutting was held for the new home of River Rock Yoga.
- **Planet Fitness – 1275 Silas Deane Highway.** A ribbon cutting was held for this a gym/fitness club in this space formerly occupied by Office Depot.
- **Connecticut Business Systems – 100 Great Meadow** – In June a ribbon cutting was held to welcome CBS to the community.
- **Live Right Wellness – 280 Main Street** – We celebrated the expansion of this business with a well attended ribbon cutting.

TOURISM COMMISSION

- **Seasonal Rack Card.** The Commission continues to promote the Historic Wethersfield brand throughout the State and since last August has distributed 40,000 of the recently redesigned seasonal rack cards through our contract with CTM Media. We have just updated the design of the most recent rack card and have placed an order for an additional 25,000.
- **Monthly Event Calendar.** The Commission continues to produce and distribute via email the monthly event calendar/newsletter.
- **Wethersfield Heritage Walk.** With support of a grant of \$17,500 from the Hartford Foundation For Public Giving and an additional grant in the amount of \$35,000 from Connecticut Humanities the Commission has

been leading the effort to plan and design the Heritage Interpretive Trail. A public information meeting was held in September and the project continues to progress. We are in the midst of editing the panel and kiosk designs. The project schedule has been revised with the planned installation anticipated for September.

- **Group Tour Package.** We are working our State Tourism District staff to create a package of offerings that might be attractive to group tour providers. Wethersfield will be promoted in the August edition of Group Tour Magazine.

PLANNING AND ZONING

- At their July 7 meeting the Commission approved a zone change application for CCC Construction to rezone the "Harris" property located at the end of Old Reservoir Road and Back Lane to the AA OS Residential Zone.
- An application was filed with the Wetlands Commission to extend Whippoorwill Lane to accommodate the development of 12 building lots.
- An application was approved to open a new package store in the Marshall's Plaza - Bev Max.
- The Commission reviewed preliminary plans for a 70 unit multifamily apartment building for the rear portion of 291 Ridge Road.

OTHER PROJECTS

- **Bus Shelter Program.** Continuing to work with CT Transit and CRCOG to have 9 new bus shelters installed throughout the community. PZC and Council have approved plans and matching funds.
- **Main/Marsh Street Intersection** – Bid documents are being finalized for these intersection improvements.
- **Development Agreement – 1000 Silas Deane Highway.** Working with Town Attorney, Town Manager and property owner to develop terms that will outline the details of the agreement for the use of the \$200,000 STEAP grant recently awarded for the demolition and site preparation of this site. The property owner is presently negotiating terms with prospective tenants/developer.