

EDITORIAL FOR NEREJ PROPERTY OF THE MONTH ISSUE NOVEMBER 2003

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Town of Newtown, CT

Located in northeastern Fairfield County, the Town of Newtown is one of Connecticut's quiet gems where the quality of life wins high marks from residents and visitors alike. Newtown residents have found that the community is the ideal place to live, work, play and raise a family. Newtown is popular among home builders and business interests alike. The residential housing market and population growth over the past several years has made Newtown one of Connecticut's fastest growing communities.

Newtown successfully combines the rural charm of a New England small town with the sophistication and amenities of metropolitan suburbs. Community assets are many and include historic Main Street where the Edmond Town Hall, Cyrenius Booth Library, the Meeting House, and Ram Pasture attract residents for recreation, art, music, movies and cultural events. A stroll along the picturesque street brings a sense of history and calm. The many homes that line Main Street provide a snap shot of Newtown's beginnings. Activity along Main Street is especially vibrant on Labor Day when the State's largest and only parade marking the holiday makes it way past the Liberty Flagpole.

The steady growth in Newtown's population has proven to be good for business growth. New businesses in the medical and financial professions, private education, retail, restaurant and service industries are announced at a steady pace and development in the business districts is brisk. An increase in the local skilled labor force provides great potential for new corporate office development as well. Whether it is the historic mills along the Pootatuck River in Sandy Hook, the Borough Village Center, Hawleyville or the South Main Street corridor, the opportunities for business growth and development continue to be seen in Newtown.

With its excellent transportation network that provides ease of access for employees and to northeastern markets Newtown appeals to a wide range of businesses. The proximity of Newtown to the Danbury, Waterbury and Bridgeport labor markets help provide a diverse selection of employees that contribute to the growing local employment base. Newtown implemented various policies in order to assist local business to grow and will work with new companies to get their business up and running in their new location.

Newtown successfully manages its fiscal matters to its benefit. Its bond rating has increased twice in the past three years lowering the cost of borrowing. Taxes, the local educational system, roadway system, parks, open space and environmental protection are on the top of the list for preserving the high quality of life Newtown residents enjoy. Capital projects are carefully planned out to ensure that public education, recreational opportunities and municipal infrastructure are balanced and maintained to their highest degree.

The municipal purchase from the State of Connecticut and reuse of the Fairfield Hills Hospital campus and the creations of an open space fund to support the acquisition of important properties are ongoing town wide concerns. Newtown is the home of Fairfield County's only working dairy farm and the preservation of its agricultural heritage and the many equestrian farms are very important to residents. Newtown's character and community spirit are held among the greatest assets that are enjoyed here.