

# Around Town

## An Update from the Economic Development Commission

by Elizabeth Stocker, AICP, Director of Economic and Community Development

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At a glance it might look like commercial development in Newtown is moving at a slow pace but a closer look will reveal something quite different. The few projects that are under way are moving forward with tenants and owners that are ready to open as soon as they can.

### PLAZA SOUTH

Let's explore Plaza South on South Main Street as an example. Union Savings Bank will be the first tenant to open in the new center. The new branch office staff is being trained so that they are ready to go when the doors open in the next several weeks. The second tenant that will join Union Savings at Plaza South is The Learning Experience. This new business offers a complete child development center and will locate in the 10,000 square foot building next to the bank. The Learning Experience is planning to open another Connecticut facility in Cromwell and is exploring Brookfield as well. The foundation for a third building at Plaza South is in and

we should see some vertical movement in the coming weeks as more tenants are lined up for this exciting project. The third building will have about 12,500 square feet and is already close to being committed.

### BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN

Two other projects that are moving along include Eton Center and Toro Restaurant in the Borough of Newtown. Ace Hardware joined Caraluzzi's Newtown Market and Wachovia Bank at Eton Center this past fall. The building has about 4,400 square feet left on Queen Street and the space may be subdivided. The Realtors are talking with two potential tenants that may announce a deal very soon. The owners of Toro Restaurant are ready to move forward with an expansion to the second floor. The second floor will offer a hibachi-style experience for diners.

### NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER

Anyone who has not ventured out to the Newtown Municipal Center should

come up for a visit. The Municipal Center officially opened in November. The offices of the First Selectman, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor, Finance, Economic & Community Development, Health District, Fire Marshal, Building Inspector, Land Use, Probate Judge, Registrar of Voters and the administrative offices for the Board of Education are now located in one central building. The Board of Selectmen, Legislative Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Economic Development Commission and many more boards are now meeting in the new facility. The Fairfield Hills Campus is very active with walkers and joggers who are utilizing the campus trails for their daily workouts. The Newtown Youth Academy is also adding members daily.

We welcome you to come over and see Newtown's Municipal Center at 3 Primrose Street in Newtown.

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