

**REPORT BY ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
March 2012**

1. The Tech Park, Fairfield Hills and Batchelder continue to be **advertised** on Loop Net, Co Star & CERC Site Finder. I listed several privately owned commercial properties for the property owners and brokers who have asked to be listed on CERC Site Finder under the EDC. Leads continue to come in from these sources. A Spring Preview ad and editorial that focus on the Fairfield Hills Campus (see handouts) ran in the March 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the CT section of the NEREJ and will be posted on the EDC web site. New ads for the campus have been designed and will be placed on a rotating basis in the CT section of the Journal. I also placed a pick-up of the Spring Preview article in the NE issue that will be published on March 30<sup>th</sup>. <http://www.newtown.org/news-center.html>
2. **EDC web site** updates are ongoing. An E-News archive, an updated Fact Sheet and Tech Park handout were posted to the site. The 8 Commission profiles that were submitted have been added. Check them out at this link: <http://www.newtown.org/atedc-commission-members.html>
3. **Commercial development activity** – Activity continues to be brisk. I am working with several ongoing inquiries. Several new inquiries came in over the past month as follows:
  - Local business inquiry for land that straddles the Monroe Pepper St. park for new construction
  - Interest in Batchelder continues to be active
  - An existing business needs more space and is seeking options This is a lease situation and several options have been provided.
  - A resident who is starting a new business called to report that our leads have been very helpful and project is underway
  - Inquiry received for the Queen Street Shopping Center for a new business – referred to Borough Zoning
  - Inquiry for a retail use at former Blue Linx site
  - A couple of new home businesses called in to request placement in your online business directory and were added.
  - New business openings: Peach Wave, a Sports Equipment Consignment shop on South Main Street (replaced Bit of Tack who went out of business), Kling Brothers Gym on Pecks Lane, Newtown Pharmacy on Church Hill Road, Rockwell Organics in Sandy Hook Center
  - A resident interested in bringing a film company to Newtown.
  - A NY production company inquired about Fairfield Hills (Scranton Lace Factory)
  - A commercial broker inquired about new occupancy for 31 Pecks Lane. Says building is almost full.
  - Steven's Diner is up for lease – 120 seat restaurant.
  - A small business is seeking space to move from home (not Newtown) to
  - Inquiry for 100,000 – 150,000 sf for data center received
  - Local restaurant seeking a larger shop

- Broker interested in Fairfield Hills for retail/restaurant use at Stratford Hall
- Met with Children's Museum and Theatre group interested in Fairfield Hills
- Broker interested in sublease for warehouse space (28,000 sf)

4. **Sandy Hook:** I continue to work with engineering/DPW on an RFP for design/construction for the streetscape work.
5. A lease for the former Shell station on Church Hill Road has been signed. The March 7<sup>th</sup> hearing with ZBA was continued due to input received at the hearing. The applicant is seeking setbacks closer to the property lines to permit the future realignment of Edmond Road with Commerce Road.
6. The budget work program is on track for the final few months of the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2012.

3/16/2012 Elizabeth Stocker 203-270-4271