



Economic Development Newsletter

THOMASTON, CONNECTICUT

“Live, Work, & Play in a Town for All Time”

Winter 2020 - Volume VII

The EDC Welcomes the Following New Businesses to Thomaston!

Stitch on Main – 310 South Main Street, Suite #6

Thomaston Family Diner – 381 South Main Street



U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA Training Sessions Coming to Thomaston During the Spring Small Business Workshop Series!

The members of the EDC are pleased to announce that a series of Small Business Administration training sessions have been arranged right here in Thomaston. All three sessions will be held at Town Hall from 6:30 to 7:30PM:

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – “SBA 101” – Crescent Gallery

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 – “How to Start a Business” – Lena Morton Gallery

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – “Lender Roundtable” - Lena Morton Gallery

The assistance of the U.S. Small Business Administration is available to all businesses in the Town of Thomaston. Since its founding on July 30, 1953, the U.S. Small Business Administration has delivered millions of loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses.

Light refreshments will be provided. Come learn about funding opportunities through the SBA while also mingling with fellow local business people. Further information on these sessions will be on the EDC web page on the Town website. You can visit <https://www.sba.gov/> for more information.

Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Routing Feasibility Study Released

On February 11th, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) released a draft “*Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Thomaston to Torrington Routing Feasibility Study Report*.” The draft report, all appendices, as well as an interactive map of the project corridor and preferred route can be viewed on the NVCOG website at: <https://nvcogct.gov/project/current-projects/naugatuck-river-greenway/nrg-thomaston-to-torrington-routing-study/> The NVCOG welcomes public input on the preferred route, and a link to submit comments is also available on the same page. The deadline to submit comments is March 13, 2020.



The Naugatuck River Greenway is a planned 44-mile multipurpose trail following the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby. When complete, the Greenway will link 11 municipalities, reclaim the Naugatuck River for recreation, provide an alternate mode of transportation, drive tourism and economic development, and improve the quality of life for residents. For more information on the entire greenway or the planned work on the Thomaston section, see the NVCOG website at <https://nvcogct.gov/what-we-do/naugatuck-river-greenway/>.

EDC Compiling Business Email Contact List

The Thomaston Economic Development Commission is in the process of compiling a business email list. You may already have been contacted by a Commission member. In order to reach all Thomaston business owners with this newsletter, as well as to let our business community know about the many exciting events we have planned over the upcoming months, the Commission wanted to ensure it had the most current contact information possible.

Please be assured that your privacy is important to us, and your email address will only be used for the purpose of quarterly newsletter distribution and announcement of EDC-sponsored events. It will NOT be shared with any other businesses, mailing lists, or Town departments.

SAVE THE DATE!

2nd Annual EDC Business Awards

Tuesday, April 28, 2020



Downtown Parking Survey Results

The Downtown Parking Survey has closed, and the results have been compiled. Results of the survey will be available on the Economic Development page of the Town website www.thomastonct.org. The goal of the survey was to obtain input from owners, residents, employees, and patrons of businesses located in the Downtown Development District about their thoughts on current parking availability and options for improvements.

Town Center/Downtown Development District Expansion - UPDATE

The public hearing for the expansion of the Downtown Development District has unfortunately been postponed due to issues related to notification signage required by the Zoning Regulations. The new date will likely be late spring. The Town Center Committee and the Planning & Zoning Commission remain committed to this long overdue update, and the new date will be posted on the Town website and in this newsletter once it is set. Approximately 25 properties are proposed to be added into the Downtown Development District. Six properties being considered are actually portions of larger properties that were already designated DDD; this update will ensure the entire property has a uniform zoning designation. In addition to Center School and Seth Thomas Park, other properties recommended for inclusion are located along Park Street, a portion of Electric Avenue, and further along South Main Street and East Main Street. Stop by the Land Use Office to review the proposed changes.



Thomaston Working Toward Sustainable CT Certification

Work continues to compile the necessary documentation to submit for Bronze Level Sustainable CT certification. The goal is to obtain certification in the Fall 2020 cycle; the submission deadline is August 25, 2020.

Sustainable CT is a statewide program created by CT towns to recognize thriving and resilient CT communities that are working to build community and the local economy while equitably promoting the health and well-being of current and future residents and respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. The program provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices; municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification. Sustainable CT also provides grant-funding opportunities.

Did you know? The EDC maintains an updated list of commercial/industrial properties available for lease or purchase in town. To view the list of available properties, please visit the EDC webpage at <http://www.thomastonct.org/content/163/246/366/default.aspx>. Further information on business assistance programs can be found on the Town of Thomaston website at www.thomastonct.org

The State of Connecticut has updated their Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) website and created a new website for prospective businesses. Visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD> and <https://portal.ct.gov/CHOOSECT> for information.

Thank you for reading! To see past issues of this newsletter, visit www.thomastonct.org. To submit ideas or comments, contact the EDC at the address below. This quarterly electronic newsletter will be sent via email and posted on the Town website. For questions/comments or to opt-out, contact:

Stacey Sefcik, Economic Development Commission Liaison • Email: ssefcik@thomastonct.org
Town of Thomaston, 158 Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787 • Phone: (860)283-8411 • www.thomastonct.org