



# Economic Development News

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*Economic Development News* is a newsletter from Bethel’s Office of Economic Development. This newsletter provides business and industry news, information about business programs and what’s happening in the local, state and federal government, profile Bethel businesses, and so much more.

2015 is off to a great start! Here are some highlights...

In partnership with the Bethel, Brookfield and Newtown Chambers of Commerce, SCORE, and our local sponsors, we were pleased to provide a **free Business Master series** in the months of April and May. Look for new workshop offerings in the fall.

The town is in the process of implementing **improvements to downtown**. Some of the improvements you will start to see include streetscape expansion, accessibility ramps and sidewalks on School Street, Library Place, Durant Avenue and Front Street, a Community Gathering Place, Municipal Center and public parking signage, and the repair and painting of the streetscape lights.

The Bethel Chamber of Commerce and our office are developing a community website called *Discover Bethel*. The website will be the go-to resource for information about Bethel including events, activities, attractions, dining, shopping, services, businesses and business resources. The website will go live in August 2015.

In July, the town will begin a project to develop a **Bethel Center Transit Oriented Development and Revitalization Plan**. The plan will provide implementable solutions to revitalize and enhance Bethel’s downtown based on community input and technical analysis. We look forward to your involvement with the planning.

Whether you are starting, expanding or relocating a business we are here to help. Please contact our office for assistance.

*Janice*

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*Got a topic? Want to join our mailing list or profile your business? Please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

CONNECT WITH US:



[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE](#)

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)

[PROPERTY SEARCH](#)

## LOCAL PROGRAMS AND NEWS

### COMMUNITY WEBSITE – *DISCOVER BETHEL* COMING IN AUGUST 2015!



If you would like to be featured on *Discover Bethel* or learn more, please call 203-743-6500 or email [contactus@bethelchamber.com](mailto:contactus@bethelchamber.com).



**Bethel**  
Chamber of Commerce  
BUILDING A BETTER BETHEL

### **BETHEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Chamber strives to deliver the support your business needs to be as successful as it can be. Being a member puts you in great company so that you can develop relationships with other businesses, local organizations, and town officials. The Chamber is constantly gathering information and sharing it with its members to assist them.

If you would like to be a part of the Chamber, please email [contactus@bethelchamber.com](mailto:contactus@bethelchamber.com).



### **STONY HILL FOUR CORNERS**

The organization's purpose is to create a greater awareness of what the businesses in the Stony Hill area have to offer, while also creating ways for those businesses to give back to the community.

If you are a Stony Hill/Hawleyville area business and would like to be a part of the organization, please email [stonyhillfourcorners@gmail.com](mailto:stonyhillfourcorners@gmail.com).

## **STATE PROGRAMS**



### **CT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

The Connecticut Small Business Development Center (CTSBDC) provides no-cost advising services to both prospective and existing business owners to help them start or expand their business. From home-based micro businesses to global exporters, and business newcomers to serial entrepreneurs, anyone seeking to grow a healthy small business can partner with the CTSBDC.

CTSBDC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the University of Connecticut. The SBDC program remains one of the nation's largest small business assistance programs in the federal government with a proven track record of providing almost 35 years of service to small businesses.



### **CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS**

Connecticut Innovations offers flexible loans for established companies with new innovations or plans for growth. When you need additional funding to run your business, CI can work with you and your bank to get you financed. They offer loans of up to \$5 million for owner-occupied real estate, equipment purchases, working capital and more.



### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Economic and Community Development offers low-interest loans and matching grants with their [Small Business Express Program](#) to help job creation and growth.



### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The CTDOL provides wage and training subsidies to employers that hire unemployed job seekers and offers low-interest loans and matching grants with their [StepUp Program](#).



### C-PACE – A CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN CT

Connecticut Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is an innovative program that is helping commercial, industrial and multi-family property owners’ access affordable, long-term financing for smart energy upgrades to their buildings.

C-PACE allows building owners to finance qualifying energy efficiency and clean energy improvements through placing a voluntary assessment on their property tax bill. Property owners pay for the improvements over time through this additional charge on their property tax bill and the repayment obligation transfers automatically to the next owner if the property is sold. Similar to a sewer tax assessment, capital provided under the C-PACE program is secured by a lien on the property, so low-interest capital can be raised from the private sector with no government financing required.

C-PACE financing offers a broad range of benefits to building owners, municipalities, mortgage holders, lenders and energy efficiency/renewable energy contractors.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT

### 22 STONY HILL ROAD

Development of a gas station and drive-thru food establishment is being planned for 22 Stony Hill Rd. A project completion date has not been determined.

## **BERKSHIRE INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION**

Berkshire Industrial Corporation is developing a 20,000 square foot building on Parklawn Drive in Berkshire Corporate Park. A project completion date has not been determined.

## **THE GRAND**

The Grand is a residential development located on Grand Street. The project will include 26 one and two bedroom rental apartments. The project is scheduled to be complete in early 2016.

## **EXPANDING BUSINESSES**



### **MEMRY CORPORATION**

**GRAND OPENING – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 at 11:00AM  
3 BERKSHIRE BOULEVARD**

Memry Corporation is expanding their U.S. Headquarters. Memry is a global leader in the invention and development of Nitinol alloys and other super elastic and shape memory alloys, and the manufacture of Nitinol semi-finished forms and fabricated components. The expansion includes an additional 15,000 square feet to its current 37,000 square foot facility, new equipment and human resources. Memry currently employs 153 people and anticipates hiring an additional 76 employees over the next three years.

## **NEW BUSINESSES**

**ELITE DENTAL CARE – 24 GRASSY PLAIN STREET, (203) 616-5786**

**DENTAL CARE**



**GRASSY PLAIN VAPE AND SMOKE – 39 GRASSY PLAIN STREET, (203) 917-3597**

**SHOPPING AND RETAIL**



**KOWLOON – 110 GREENWOOD AVENUE, (203) 205-2325**  
**CHINESE RESTAURANT**



**SPARK ARTS – 173 GREENWOOD AVENUE, (203) 790-7111**  
**PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION, ART SCHOOL AND THEATRE**



**STARRY SKY STUDIOS – 213 GREENWOOD AVENUE, (203) 770-8121**  
**ARTS SCHOOL, MUSIC LESSONS AND INSTRUCTION**



**THE APPLE AND THE PEAR – 14 DEPOT PLACE, (203) 790-7111**  
**EVENT VENUE**

**THE MEETING HOUSE PUB – 37 STONY HILL ROAD, (203) 456-6532**  
**SPORTS BAR AND NEW AMERICAN PUB**



### **A GUIDE TO OPENING A BUSINESS IN BETHEL**

Are you thinking of starting a business in Bethel? If so, we have a guide to help you through the process.

### **BETHEL PROPERTY SEARCH**

Looking for a business location in Bethel? Check out our website or contact us at (203) 794-2822.