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## **Newtown EDC is seeing new activity on the horizon for local business expansions and relocations**

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The Newtown Economic Development Commission and I are optimistic that the spring will bring new activity as we roll out our new web site, see ongoing projects move to completion and new ones move into the construction phase. The Commission rolled out its new web site [www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org) recently and is already seeing new activity on the horizon for local business expansions and relocations. The web site and branding project are part of the Commission's strategy to stimulate business growth and development in Newtown. The web site provides the tools necessary to learn more about available commercial real estate and the local business climate. Links to CERC's Site Finder allows visitors to search for properties in Newtown and provides information on the labor force, housing, consumer spending and other demographic information needed to make business location decisions.

There are already plans in the making for three ribbon cuttings and a ground breaking for this spring. A new Union Savings Bank branch office is now open at the Plaza South complex on South Main St. (Rte. 25). Its official opening will occur in April and shortly thereafter The Learning Experience will be hosting its grand opening. Construction of a third building at Plaza South is well underway and the ground breaking for the fourth building is expected in coming weeks. Coldwell Banker Scalzo Realty is representing the property while Hawley Construction Corporation is the building contractor.

The month of March is already showing signs that it will be full of encouraging news as a number of home builders and commercial developers have been coming in to begin the building permit process. The Hawleyville Post Office is expected to reopen this spring in its new location. The post office joins Papa Al's Pizza and Hawleyville Wine and Liquors which opened recently in the new shops on Barnabas Rd.

Betts Square on Church Hill Rd. is attracting its share of tenants to Sandy Hook Center. Betts Square is still under construction and is the most recent of many projects that are working together to revitalize this quaint historic hamlet. Sandy Hook center is an attraction for residents and visitors who are finding that it has an exciting assortment of restaurants, retail shops, apartments and recreational opportunities (hiking, fishing) within walking distance of each other. The sidewalks, landscaping and streetlights combine nicely with the renovated historic buildings to provide a cohesive feel to the district. They invite and welcome visitors to stroll and enjoy their stay. Michael Burton Builders is the owner/contractor of Betts Square and Atherton & Associates is representing them.

Clariss Construction Inc. of Newtown was instrumental in gaining land use approvals for the proposed Newtown Veterinary Hospital on Mt. Pleasant Rd. in Hawleyville. This project involves the construction of a new veterinary surgical hospital having 16,500 s/f of space and related parking.

The hospital is expected to operate 24/7 and will create 20 - 30 construction jobs and 51 permanent jobs within five years. They expect to move forward with the construction phase this spring once the financing is secured. Advantage Realty Commercial is representing the property owner.

Dr. Joseph Young is expanding his family eye care practice by moving to a new location in the Borough of Newtown. Dr. Young is currently located in the Borough Village Shopping Center and will move into an office building on Church Hill Rd. Another 6,400 s/f office building on Church Hill Rd. is seeking tenants and would make a nice location for medical uses.

The town is expecting Walgreens to move forward with site preparation for a new 15,000 s/f pharmacy on South Main St. The site has existing structures that will be removed and some site grading will be necessary for the proposed building. Land use approvals are in place. The fit-out for the Pacific Asian Bistro & Hibachi Restaurant at the Highland Plaza on South Main St. is expected to be complete later this spring. The 6,100 s/f restaurant will join Snap Fitness, Nanavaty, Nanavaty & Davenport Certified Public Accountants and the Highland Storage Company at the center. Saugatuck Commercial Real Estate is representing the property owner.

Newtown's Economic Development Commission is ready to help businesses to grow locally and to provide assistance to new companies who seek a Newtown location. We are ready to help you get your business up and running as quickly as possible in a Newtown location. The Commission invites visitors to its web site at [www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org) to learn more about Newtown and all we have to offer.

Elizabeth Stocker, AICP is director of economic and community development for the Town of Newtown.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540