

Oakwood Soccer Complex Opens

The **Oakwood Soccer Club** has opened an outdoor complex on 24 acres located at 521 Glastonbury Turnpike. The two state-of-the-art soccer fields, one with lights, feature the latest field turf product, in-filled monofilament artificial turf. The same surface is installed at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Ma, home of the New England Patriots. The turf product will allow for constant play 11-12 months a year. Oakwood plans to train their older academy teams outdoors as long as the fields are playable or plowed. The **Oakwood Soccer Park** is now the home training and match site for Oakwood's 23 premier teams, boy's and girl's ages U-8 through U-18.

Oakwood coaching directors Rick Derella & Dave Farrell, both members of the CT Soccer Hall of Fame, have envisioned this project for nearly 10 years. The park will allow the club to grow with additional teams, tournaments and summer camps. The 24 acre site has additional space for a third field and a restaurant/clubhouse as future considerations. Director Rick Derella feels the complex is the perfect compliment to the **Oakwood Indoor Center** in neighboring Glastonbury. The club has rented multiple outdoor turf and grass fields for the past 21 years.

Oakwood Soccer Club is a member of the US Soccer Developmental Academy and will play home matches versus the youth teams of the New England Revolution and DC United as well as other top clubs throughout the Northeast. The club is a non-profit youth organization designed to develop student athletes to highest level of soccer and academia. For more information on the Oakwood Soccer Club, visit their website at Oakwoodsoccer.com.

Community Partners Program 2010 Applications Now Available

Applications are available for businesses to apply for recognition as part of the 2010 Community Partners Program. The 2009 Community Partners Program Decal can be found on the windows and doors of more than 100 Portland businesses as a result of monetary and in-kind contributions to the community of nearly \$250,000. The decal, shown below, indicates that the member business supports a wide variety of activities, including educational programs, recreational programs, religious organizations, organized sports programs, community outreach programs and nonprofit groups. Portland residents are urged to look for these decals and support our local businesses that so generously support the community.



The Community Partners Program has two levels of recognition. The Member Level recognizes businesses for donations of goods or services of up to \$5,000 in value during the previous calendar year. The Gold Member level recognizes business for donations of goods and services in excess of \$5,000 during the previous calendar year. The 2010 Program Applications are available in the Planning Office at the Portland Town Hall and on line at www.portlandct.org. Completed applications should be sent to The Portland Economic Development Commission c/o Portland Town Hall, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480. The CPP Awards Ceremony will be held in March 2010.

Economic Development Commission Seeking “Business of the Month” Nominations

Have you had a great experience dealing with a local business? Then tell us about it! The “Business of the Month” Program is sponsored by the EDC to recognize Portland businesses that provide exceptional customer service, product selection, pricing or community service. Any business operating within the town of Portland is eligible. Nominations from residents and customers are always welcome.

All nominations are reviewed at the EDC’s monthly meeting. Businesses are selected based upon the above mentioned criteria. The winning business is then recognized with a sign designating them as “Business of the Month”. Also, a press release submitted to the Rivereast, The Hartford Courant and The Middletown Press.

To nominate a business, send a short note indicating the business and its’ address and the reason for the nomination. Nominations may be mailed to:
Economic Development Commission,
c/o Portland Town Hall, P.O. Box 71,
Portland, CT 06480.

News From the Building & Planning Departments

The offices of Building, Planning, Zoning & Health are located on the 1st floor of the Town Hall located at 33 East Main Street.

Office Hours:

Monday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Considering a New Business?

The Economic Development Commission employs a part time consultant available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm to assist you. Contact Mary Dickerson, EDC Consultant, at 342-7302 to discuss your ideas.

Planning a Project?

Tuesday nights are a great time to meet with the Development Team at the Town Hall to discuss plans that you may have for business expansion or a prospective new business idea. You will receive an overview of the approval process and the technical information required to complete your project. To schedule a meeting with the Development Team, including the Fire Marshal, Building Official, Planner, Director of Public Works, Sanitarian and Economic Development Consultant, contact Deanna Rhodes, Planning and Land Use Administrator at 342-6720.

Important Contact Information for the Building and Planning Department

Planning & Land Use Administrator
Deanna Rhodes drhodes@portlandct.org
Phone: 860 342-6720
drhodes@portlandct.org

Administrative Assistant
Linda Manchester
Phone: 860 342-6727
Manchester@portlandct.org

Building Official
Lincoln White
Phone: 860.342.6728
lwhite@portlandct.org

Town Sanitarian
Don Mitchell, RS
Phone: 860 342-6718
dmitchell@portlandct.org

Economic Development Consultant
Mary D. Dickerson
Phone: 860 342-7302
marydickerson@yahoo.com

EDC Works with Legislators to Obtain Tourism Signage

Encouraged by a letter of request from the Portland Economic Development Commission, State Senators Eileen Daily and Donald J. DeFronzo and State Representative Jim O'Rourke have crafted and passed HB 6649, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. HB 6649 provided for state funded directional signage for the Portland Exploration and Discovery Park to be erected along Route 9 in Middletown, directing traffic over the Arrigoni Bridge to the Brownstone Quarry National Landmark and the **Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park**.

For more than ten years, the Town of Portland, the Brownstone Quorum and Portland Citizens have worked tirelessly to obtain the quarry site, complete its' designation as a National Landmark and create parks that are safe and accessible for the public. The Town of Portland entered into a unique public-private partnership with the **Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park** to create a safe environment for tourists and historians to enjoy and explore the Portland Brownstone Quarries. The Discovery Park offers not only a safe and affordable entertainment experience, but also an opportunity to connect with history in a unique way. The Portland Brownstone Quorum has cleared acres of scenic trails along the Connecticut River to be enjoyed by all free of charge. Along the way, the Quorum has uncovered stonewalls, unique land formations and even a locomotive leftover from the Brownstone Quarry operation that ran from 1689 to 1938.

Now, the State is including Portland in its' tourism advertisements along Connecticut's highways. The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism has estimated that tourism generates more than \$9 billion dollars for Connecticut's economy each year. The efforts to restore public access to the quarry and riverfront areas have resulted in the development of a tourist attraction worthy of inclusion in the highway advertising program. It is hoped that this exposure will bring increased tourism to Portland's recreational and historic areas and increased revenue to our commercial businesses.

8th Annual "Halloween Downtown" Scheduled

The 8th annual Portland "Halloween Downtown" will be held on Friday, October 30 from 4 pm to 7 pm.

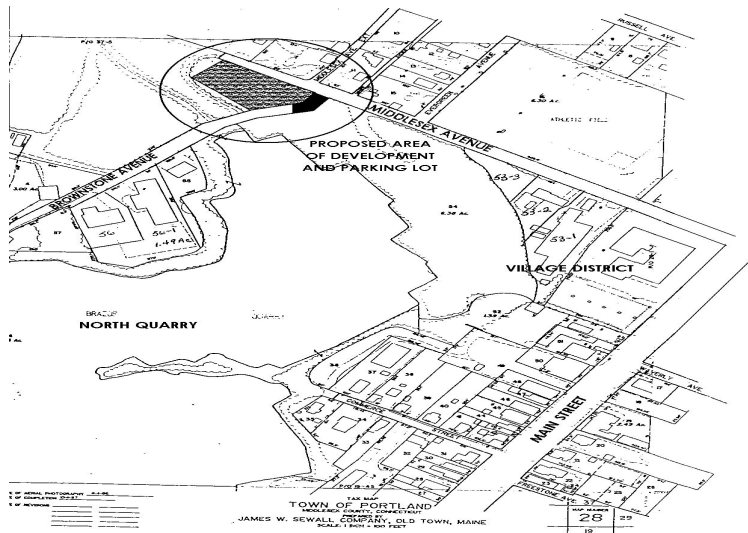
Participating businesses will display a paper pumpkin in their shop windows. The Halloween Downtown event includes not only Main Street businesses, but businesses located along Marlborough Street (Rt. 66) and in the Tri Town Plaza.



The Halloween Downtown Program is sponsored by the Portland Youth Services and participating businesses. Youth Services Program Director Mary Pont developed the Halloween event as a way for children and their families to celebrate Halloween in a safe environment with well lit streets, ample sidewalks. Children and adults alike are invited to don their most imaginative costumes and join in the fun!

Brownstone Avenue Extension Project Close to Completion

The Brownstone Avenue Extension Project, funded by a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant, is nearing completion. The Project is a cooperative effort between the Portland Public Works Department, Town Engineers Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates, Inc. of Chester and Nutmeg Gravel and Excavating, Inc. of Colchester. The Portland Public Works Department performed all of the preliminary site work, removing brush, trees and stumps from the hillside near Middlesex Avenue. Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates, Inc. performed all of the project engineering. Nutmeg Gravel and Excavating, Inc. was selected as the general contractor.



The Project will create a vital link between the Main Street Village District and the Quarry and riverfront areas. The 700 feet of new roadway will connect Brownstone Avenue to Middlesex Avenue. A paved parking lot, to be located at the end of Middlesex Avenue, will provide convenient parking for the Quarry area attractions. An overlook is also being constructed along Middlesex Avenue that will provide panoramic views of the Connecticut River, the Brownstone Quarry National Landmark and the Arrigoni Bridge. New sidewalks will run along Middlesex Avenue to Main Street.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDC CHAIRMAN

The Economic Development Commission is composed of five Portland residents appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The EDC meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Portland Town Hall. Residents and members of the business community are invited to attend. The EDC has retained a part-time business consultant, Mary D. Dickerson, a Portland resident, to work directly with our business community.

The mission of the EDC is to work to promote and retain our existing businesses and to attract new businesses appropriate to our community. Members of the EDC can assist local business owners in their efforts to make changes at the local and state level. We welcome any suggestions you may have regarding improving Portland's business climate.

Sincerely,
 Fred Knous, EDC Chairman
 P.O. Box 71,
 Portland, CT 06480
 Phone: (860)833-3286
 Email: frknousgovrel@yahoo.com

The **Portland Business Journal** is a quarterly publication of the **Portland Economic Development Commission**. Issues are published in March, June, September and December. If you have ideas for future articles, or notices for meetings or events that you would like to be included in the **Portland Business Journal**, please contact Mary D. Dickerson, EDC Consultant at 342-7302 or by e-mail at marydickerson@yahoo.com.