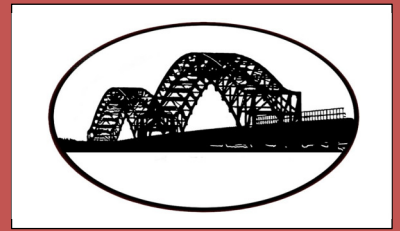


The Portland Business Journal

Summer Edition 2012

A Publication of the Portland Economic Development Commission



Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park Hopes to Become Regional Adventure Attraction

Portland's Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park has reached an agreement with the town of Middlefield to purchase the former Powder Ridge Ski area. The 226-acre parcel is located just off Route 66 in Middlefield, approximately 10 miles from the popular Portland adventure park. Middlefield voters, at a referendum scheduled for later in the summer, must approve the sale.

If approved, the new owners expect the ski area to open in December of 2014. The cost to get the ski park up and running is expected to be between \$3 and \$5 million. The hope is that when marketed together, the two parks can become a regional year round recreation destination. The Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park is primarily a summer attraction, but holds special events throughout the fall, winter, and spring, including kayaking, scuba diving, ice climbing, and for the brave, polar bear swims. The new ski park would offer winter skiing and snowboarding, as well as a range of warm weather activities, that have become increasingly popular at many northern New England ski resorts.

Summer Concert Series to be Held at New Riverfront Pavilion

The new open-air pavilion on the riverfront will be ready in time for the summer concert season. The Parks & Recreation Department, Portland Library, and the Brownstone Quorum have been working together to establish a summer concert series. The concerts will be held on Tuesday evenings and offer something for everyone.

The schedule includes the Michael Cleary Band on August 7, Squeaky Clean on August 14, and The Great Hill Mountain Band on August 21. All concerts are scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm. Concert goers are urged to bring a blanket or chair, grab some dinner, and enjoy music along with cool summer breezes in our beautiful riverfront park. Watch the town's website, portlandct.org, for more information.



State of Connecticut Offers Small Business Loans

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Department of Labor continue to offer loans and financial incentives to encourage small business expansion and job creation. In addition, the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC) offers small business expansion loans that can work in conjunction with the DECD programs. For more information, refer to the contacts below:

The Small Business Express Package includes the Revolving Loan Fund, The Job Creation Incentive Program (with Loan Forgiveness), and The Job Creation Matching Grant Program (with Loan Forgiveness). For more information on these programs, contact Michelle Lugo at the Department of Economic and Community Development by phone (860) 270-8052 or by e-mail Michelle.lugo@ct.gov.

The STEP Program is designed to encourage new hires and includes The General Small Business STEP Program and The Small Manufacturer STEP Program. For more information, contact the Department of Labor (860) 263-6000

Manufacturing Reinvestment Accounts (MRA) work to encourage business expansion, while the **Job Expansion Credits Program** works to encourage employment expansion. Both programs are administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Contact the DECD by phone at (860) 270-8000.

MCRC Revolving Loan Program offers loans for buildings, improvements, and working capital. For more information, contact Program Administrator, Paul Hughes at (860)347-6924.

Portland Collision LLC Celebrates Grand Opening

Portland Collision LLC, 1621 Portland-Cobalt Road celebrated its Grand Opening on April 12, 2012. The business is family owned and operated by Portland residents Greyson and Lisa Mountain with more than 20 years of experience for your repair and auto body needs. The business offers free estimates and is a DuPont Certified shop. For more information, visit their website www.portlandcollisionllc.com or call the office at (860) 342-1520.

Building, Planning, Zoning & Health Department Hours

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. - 7:00 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.

Thoughtful Touch Massage & Body Work

Thoughtful Touch Massage & Body Work has opened at 264 Main Street. The business offers prenatal, hot stone, and customized massage and is open by appointment. Owner and Portland resident, Trish Burdett, is a graduate of the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, Connecticut licensed, certified for pediatric massage, and nationally certified by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Trish believes in the therapeutic benefits of massage, especially when recovering from injury or illness. For more information, or to make an appointment, contact Trish at (860)796-5028.

Bailey's Bargains Opens for Business

Bailey's Bargains has opened for business at 206 Main Street. Owner Gary Bailey carefully selects his inventory to create the perfect mix of vintage and antique goods. The shop features quality furniture, lighting, artwork, glassware, household goods, collectibles, and Americana. The store also accepts quality consignment items. Bailey's Bargains is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 2 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information about the shop or to consign items for sale, contact Gary directly at (860)342-1711.

The Fairway Grill Opens at Portland Golf West

The Fairway Grill has opened at Portland Golf West, 105 Gospel Lane. This "kid friendly" restaurant offers a pub menu of delicious burgers and fries, club sandwiches, chicken, and salads as well as a separate bar area. Fairway Grill is open seven days a week, 11 am to 9 pm and offers table service in the restaurant, bar area, and outdoor patio. The restaurant offers a more extensive catering menu upon request. Owner Michael LaMalfa, a graduate of the Culinary Institute in Hyde Park, New York, brings more than 22 years of experience to his new business, including 16 years as the Banquet Manager at Maneeley's Banquet and Catering in Manchester. A true family business, Michael, the son of the late Anthony "Tony" LaMalfa, owner of Pete's Barber Shop, is working side by side with his wife Lorraine, their four children, and his mother Terry, to make the Fairway Grill a destination for not just golfers, but residents looking to relax in a beautiful setting with good food and good friends.

Tritown Foods Honored by Connecticut Food Association

Tritown Foods, Inc. President Rick Sharr was named to the Connecticut Food Association “Hall of Fame” for his commitment to his local community and the food industry. In addition to the store in Portland opened in 1988, Rick and his partners, Kevin Brouillard and Jack Fitzpatrick, own and operate stores in Uncasville and East Lyme. The three stores are dedicated to providing a quality product, exceptional customer service, a commitment to the environment and becoming an integral part of the community.

Renovations and upgrades to the Portland store have included a new gas fired HVAC system and upgrades to lighting. Infrastructure improvements included the replacement of the frozen food display cases with more energy efficient models and the replacement of rooftop refrigeration compressors and condensers, to reduce electric consumption. The store plans to add an expanded bakery and kitchen in the coming year.



“Like” Us On Facebook!

The Portland Economic Development Commission has entered the world of social media! The “**Portland Connecticut Marketplace**” page offers information about our programs, local businesses, business promotions, and town and community events. Just click “Like” and stay up to date will all the latest business news.

Thinking of Starting a New Business?

Tuesday nights are a great time to meet with the Development Team at the Town Hall to discuss plans for a prospective new business or to expand your existing business! Our Development Team can give you an overview of the approval process and provide you with 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 & Land Use Administrator at (860) 342-6720.

The Portland EDC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Avenue. Business owners, residents, and those interested in promoting Portland’s business community are encouraged to attend.

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