

Future Workforce Initiative System (FWIS) Program Assists New Britain Youth

In the summer of 2005, an announcement was made that through the efforts of Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, the City of New Britain would be receiving a grant to assist youth in the area's of business internships with local New Britain business.

Through a unique partnership with Capital Workforce Partners, the New Britain Chamber of Commerce, the City of New Britain, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) and ITBD/CCSU, the program is running full steam with students attending workshops and classroom training. In April, 20 students will be selected to be interns in New Britain businesses for a six week time frame in the areas such as health care, banking, information technology and customer service. The New Britain Chamber will be responsible for internship placement.



New Britain senior high school students work on a business project at the Opportunities Industrialization Center.

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Positively New Britain is a newsletter that is oriented toward business and business development but will also include information on a variety of topics concerning real estate, business incentives, education and employment and training just to mention a few. Distribution points will be to local businesses, banks and local community centers. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at: billcarroll@newbritainchamber.com

William P. Carroll
Business Development Coordinator
City of New Britain



POSITIVELY NEW BRITAIN

WINTER 2006

THE CITY OF NEW BRITAIN • NEW BRITAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Moving Forward New Britain's Business Development Projects

Throughout 2005 and coming into the New Year, the City of New Britain is witnessing a number of business development success stories that need additional coverage due in part to the investment on the part of a number of family owned and loyal businesses in our city.

The largest economic development story in New Britain was the expansion of **Papa's Dodge-Jeep** that literally transformed a dormant and polluted industrial site into New England's largest auto mall and reinvented the philosophy of what a car dealership can provide when vision, creativity and steadfast commitment exists at the top. The five million dollar project has already been open to the public and private business groups with the Papa family gearing up for their grand opening in late spring.

Guida's Dairy and **Dattco Transportation** solidified their commitment to New Britain in purchasing approximately 13 acres each of land in the city's east end of town commonly referred to as SMART PARK II. The City of New Britain in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development developed a cul-de-sac road that was named Commerce Circle. Plans for both companies include construction of buildings, fueling stations and inventory of their vehicles.

Siracusa Moving and Storage Company has announced plans to begin construction on its five acre parcel at SMART PARK II. Siracusa plans call for a 50,000 plus corporate office that will include office space and warehousing facilities. Owner Dan Siracusa recently received a tax abatement from the City of New Britain which will allow him to begin plans for his three million dollar investment into the community.



Downtown New Britain

Projects are moving forward. The former Days Inn has now been renovated into a **Holiday Inn Express** whose anticipated opening in May will be a major convenience for those who plan on coming to New Britain for graduation ceremonies, business trips, personal trips and hopefully a great partnership for the Rock Cats when visiting minor league baseball team opponents are in town visiting New Britain Stadium at Willow Brook Park.



Holiday Inn Express, 65 Columbus Blvd.



A great addition to the City of New Britain and adjoining the Holiday Inn Express will be **Famous Dave's BBQ Restaurant**, which will host over 200 customer's, offer breakfast, lunch and supper, walk-up take out service, a full bar service and most importantly over 100 new jobs for full and part time workers. The restaurant will soon begin renovation and will be approximately 7,000 square feet in total space. The restaurant is planning for a mid-May opening. To get a great idea of what the restaurant will be serving its customers, visit their website at www.famousdaves.com

The **Hole in the Wall Theatre** is now downtown with a new façade that stands apart from most downtown store fronts. The theatre underwent extensive renovations that include an auditorium, reception area. For those who enjoy theatre with a local flare, this is a must see.



116 Main Street

C-Town Supermarket located at 47 Main Street recently had its grand opening on February 3rd with a live radio station, Latino music and an abundance of shoppers participating in the event that also included Mayor Timothy Stewart, city and state economic development officials and staff of the New Britain Chamber of Commerce. The approximately 11,000 square foot supermarket offers convenience to the downtown shoppers and workers, senior citizen homes and center in addition to citizens of New Britain because of its central location. Principal owner Dan Diaz has reported excellent sales and has been extremely pleased with the support he has received from the City of New Britain and the community at large. The store carries national brand name products, offers a full service deli, butcher shop and meat department. Parking is available in both the front of the store and rear parking lot.



Grand Opening C-Town Supermarket, 47 Main Street

New Britain American Museum of Art

The next time you're driving through or exercising at the famous Walnut Hill Park, you'll be witnessing the final touches of a 26 million dollar expansion at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Considered the oldest museum featuring American art in the country, the museum has been a cornerstone in New Britain for residents and visitors from all over New England and the United States. The approximate 50,000 square foot addition has fabulously been constructed and blended with stonework similar to the museum when it opened in 1908.



New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street

The museum expansion highlights floor to ceiling glass, welcome desk center, a retail store, a gathering center, and a multitude of art galleries that are accented by hardwood floors, custom molding, granite, spacious ceilings and doorways in addition to exquisite art sculptor, murals, photography and artwork representing some of the finest artists to put their work on canvas.

Plans call for a museum open house to be on April 9th. Do yourself a favor and visit one of New Britain's classic gems. The New Britain Museum of American Art.

Great Taste Chinese Restaurant Celebrates 20 Years in New Britain.



Great Taste Restaurant, 597 West Main Street

Most people recognize that surviving and being successful in the restaurant business is extremely difficult. The competition, long hours, employee turnover and profit margins are just a few obstacles that a restaurant entrepreneur continually faces. Great Taste owner Kam Kwok who opened for business on March 16th, 1986 had a vision and work ethic that has obviously proved to be successful and could be used as a template for those considering starting a business. Whether you're visiting for lunch or dinner, it seems as though you are bound to run into a friend, business colleague or someone you've recognized in the restaurant before. As thousands of customers agree, "Great Taste is the Premier Chinese Restaurant in Connecticut."