

# Vacancy sign still hangs at Litchfield Crossings plaza

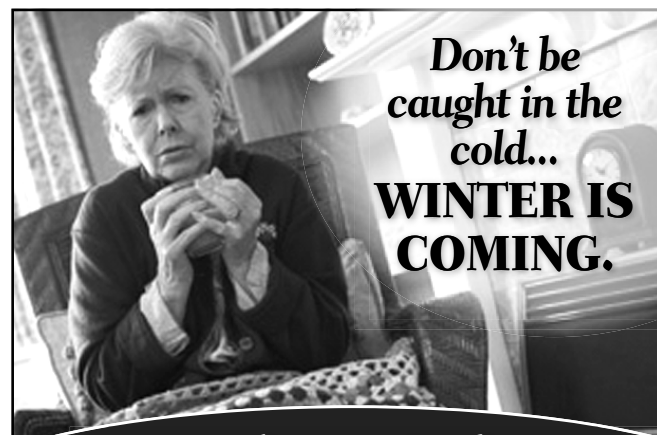
By Susan Tuz

Another Christmas shopping season is here, and the 41-acre plaza at Litchfield Crossings is still short of stores. Kohl's, HomeGoods and Big Lots, in business and attracting patrons, nevertheless seem adrift on a sea of asphalt. They opened in 2012, representing less than half of the 282,000-square-foot of shops promised in 2007. Three smaller buildings did go up in 2010 on the southern end of the prop-

erty. There is a hospital clinic, and AT&T mobility store and a branch of the Union Savings Bank. Developer Paul Scalzo said in August a major turnaround was just around the corner. Still, the Panera bread building on the corner of Dodd Road remains boarded up and only the Webster Bank branch going in next door shows promise of opening anytime soon. There appears to be light on the horizon, however. In October, Scalzo en-

tered into a new partnership to complete the long-stalled project. Litchfield Crossings LLC is the new limited partnership, with the Yonkers, N.Y., address shared by the ECCO Group. Attempts to reach ECCO's general counsel, Kristen Flynn, have been unsuccessful. However, Scalzo said on Nov. 26 that a formal announcement about the future of the plaza will be released in December. Panera confirmed a New Milford restaurant is "still on the books."

Brown Shoe, parent company of Famous Footwear, confirmed an opening in the plaza is on target for summer 2014. New Milford's zoning enforcement officer, Laura Regan, said a list of 10 requirements that must be met at the plaza is in the hands of the new owners — and is being addressed. No certificates of occupancy could be issued by the town's building department until zoners have signed off. [stuz@newstimes.com](mailto:stuz@newstimes.com); 860-355-7322



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# More change in the offing for Route 7 Citgo

A new 3,000-square-foot convenience store may soon be built at the Citgo service station along Danbury Road (Route 7 South) in New Milford. The station underwent renovations earlier this year to the gas pump area, with new pumps and canopy installed. Owner Richard Wheel-

plans to have the 1,734-square-foot store on the north end of the property demolished. The new facility, with food service area, would be located to the east, closer to Pickett District Road. The entrance from Pickett District Road would be widened and more parking spaces

would be added where the present store is located. Hot and cold deli offerings would be available. The building would have a pitched roof with clapboard exterior of pre-painted, hardy planks and a shingle roof. The gas pumps would remain open through demolition of the present

building and construction of the new building. Both construction areas would be fenced off. A permit application is before the town's Zoning Commission. A public hearing on the application will continue Dec. 10 in the Loretta Brickley Room at Town Hall. — Susan Tuz

# Senior center sets holiday events

The Bridgewater Senior Center will participate in and offer a variety of holiday-related activities in the coming days. The center will deliver 30 holiday baskets to residents Dec. 6. Drivers are still needed and should contact the center at 860-355-3090. The center will also decorate its Christmas

tree Dec. 6. Ann Tymon and volunteers from the Roxbury/Bridgewater Garden Club will offer a holiday centerpiece workshop Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. Materials will be provided. Registration is required. The center will screen the Dean Martin Christmas special Dec. 12 at

6:30 p.m. The town van will be available for Bridgewater residents. A Christmas lunch will be held Dec. 19 at noon. The fare will include roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables, dessert and beverages. The suggested donation is \$10. For more information

and sign up for activities, call the Hut Hill Road center at 860-355-3090.

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