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 Showing postings 1 - 50 of 55 in the thread: Mickey'sWindham Diner. Jump to [ [End of Discussion](#) ]

 Page: 1 2 [Next](#)

Posting: Mickey'sWindham Diner Poster: Diner Date: 13 December 2005 1:39 AM	Posting 1
<p>Restored Vintage Diner Reopens in Willimantic</p> <p>A Willimantic original returns to serve you December 15th Connecticut – When Mike Haddad decides to preserve a piece of Willimantic history, he goes all out. Haddad has over several years restored buildings in Willimantic including a railroad house and several Main St. buildings.</p> <p>When Mike located the Windham Diner for sale on the American Diner Museum website <a href="http://www.americandinermuseum.org">www.americandinermuseum.org</a> he knew the diner would make a great addition to his Back Door Restaurant &amp; Bar and return the historic diner from Waterbury to Willimantic. A great home coming was in the making.</p> <p>The 55 seat Windham Diner first arrived in Willimantic from the Mountain View Diner Co. of Signac, New Jersey factory in 1950 and was eventually run by a relative of Mike Haddad's. In 1971 urban sprawl forced the sale of the diner and it was moved and served meals first in Southbury then Waterbury.</p> <p>In February 2005, thirty four years after the Windham Diner left Willimantic the 17 x 50 silver and red vintage Mountain View Diner returned to the mill town in the darkness of the night by flatbed truck to avoid traffic where many former patrons and employees were on hand to welcome the diner to the Riverside Plaza.</p> <p>After several months of meticulous restoration the diner will again serve meals to the public as Mickey's Windham Diner.</p> <p>Rise and Shine early and join us for the Grand Opening of Mickey's Windham Diner, Thursday December 15th at 6:00AM.</p>	
Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Poster: Sam Date: 13 December 2005 6:44 AM	Posting 2
<p>Thanks for letting us know. I know that I will be there. I miss the local Gil's and Bud's. This is sure to be a smash.</p>	
Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Poster: rd Date: 13 December 2005 7:50 AM	Posting 3
<p>CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR BRINGING A PIECE OF WILLIMANTIC BACK HOME!</p>	
Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Poster: willie, willie Date: 13 December 2005 10:13 PM	Posting 4
<p>I look forward to seeing some of our history.</p>	
Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Poster: iRONic™ Date: 15 December 2005 12:51 AM	Posting 5
<p>Sanitarian shuts newly opened Willimantic diner</p> <p>(Willimantic-AP, Dec. 15, 2005 Updated 11:46 AM ) _ The registered sanitarian responsible for Mickey's Windham Diner won't predict when the eatery he closed down in Willimantic at mid-morning today may reopen.</p> <p>William Sawicki says he now has owner Michael Haddad's kitchen plan and it's in the hands of the North Central District Health Department in Enfield, which serves several towns, including Windham.</p> <p>If found satisfactory, Haddad's kitchen must be inspected to ensure it conforms to the plan. If it does, a license may then be issued.</p> <p>The sanitarian says Haddad had a Class One license, but that only allowed the diner to serve coffee and pastries at today's grand opening. When Sawicki stopped by, he says he saw full breakfasts being served.</p>	

He says he confronted Haddad, who simply smiled and shrugged his shoulders. So Sawicki shut the place down.

The Windham Diner originally opened in 1950 in Willimantic, but was moved in 1971. Haddad located it, abandoned and vandalized, in Waterbury in February. He moved it home and restored it over the summer.

Manufactured by the Mountain View Company of New Jersey, the red-and-silver diner sits 55.

<http://www.wtnh.com/Global/story.asp?S=4247894>

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 6
Poster:	Sam	
Date:	15 December 2005 1:13 PM	

Not good news. What the heck is the matter with Mickey?

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 7
Poster:	Kate Fortier	
Date:	15 December 2005 2:09 PM	

Doesn't surprise me at all ... He's a member of a not-very-small club of business owners who don't think the rules apply to them. They just do what they want until they get caught and then bank on the apathy of authorities to let their violations slide.

The guy in Chaplin who's addition to the Ribbit's restaurant on Route 6 got stalled because he blew off set back regulations ... The guy in Columbia who's construction on Dunkin' Donuts got delayed because he blew off some reg to do with his well ... The guy who used to run Tin Tsin in the mall who repeatedly dumped grease down the storm drains no matter how many sanctions the mall threw at him ... The list goes on and on and on ...

Imagine how much smoother things would go for these businesses if they just sucked it up and obeyed the rules. And, if they don't think the rules make sense, then do something to change the rule so everybody benefits.

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 8
Poster:	iRONic™	
Date:	15 December 2005 2:47 PM	

Makes my decision about eating there rather easy, Kate. I mean, what other health regs would this clown try to skirt?

*"He says he confronted Haddad, who simply smiled and shrugged his shoulders."*

Sheeeeeesh...

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 9
Poster:	iRONic™	
Date:	15 December 2005 3:00 PM	

*Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 8*

*Poster: Bill Darker meehan Reply*

*Date: 15 December 2005 2:46 PM*

*Did swickie find anything dirty?*

*Was the food good?*

Uh...

**"The sanitarian says Haddad had a Class One license, but that only allowed the diner to serve coffee and pastries at today's grand opening. When Sawicki stopped by, he says he saw full breakfasts being served."**

Perhaps you should be the town's prepared food tester, Meehan. If you keel over after a meal at an unlicensed eating establishment the rest of will know to stay away.

Of course they'll have to display your bloated carcass out front as proof.

Odd that Cinco de Mayo didn't have this type of problem when that little gem opened their doors...

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 10
Poster:	iRONic™	
Date:	16 December 2005 3:44 PM	

*"Doesn't surprise me at all ... He's a member of a not-very-small club of business owners who don't think the rules apply to them. They just do what they want until they get caught and then bank on the apathy of authorities to let their violations slide."*

It looks like the authorities are crackng down, Kate.

**Mickey's Diner lacks certificate of occupancy, too**

**(Willimantic-AP, Dec. 16, 2005 Updated 10:39 AM) \_ It turns out Mickey's Windham Diner in Willimantic not only lacks**

**a health inspector's clearance, it doesn't have a certificate of occupancy either.**

**The restored vintage diner had its grand opening at 6:00 a.m. yesterday, but Registered Sanitarian Bill Sawicki shut it down at mid-morning, saying it lacks the required health permit.**

**Today, Building Inspector Bill Schultz says the diner also lacks a certificate of occupancy. It can't be issued until "field corrections" are completed. They include adding a railing to a staircase and lowering a step on the deck that diner owner Michael Haddad put on the front of the eatery.**

**Even then, the CO can't be issued until the health permit is in place. Sawicki says he now has the kitchen plans. They will be reviewed and the kitchen inspected. If all goes well, the health certificate may then be issued.**

**Neither he nor Schultz would predict when Mickey's doors will open again.**

**Haddad has been unavailable for comment.**

**<http://www.wtnh.com/Global/story.asp?S=4253909>**

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 11
Poster:	Kate Fortier	
Date:	16 December 2005 11:26 PM	

Ironic ...

Yes, and it said in the paper tonight that the kitchen plans were "hand drawn." :)

Gee, I wonder if hubby and I could have gotten away with that when we were going for permits to build our house a year-plus ago.

Hmmmm ....

Anyway ... Hope he gets things squared away so he can open that place up full time. I'd very much like to see it.

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 12
Poster:	iRONic™	
Date:	17 December 2005 3:18 PM	

Hand drawn?!?!

Ahahaha! Priceless...

Was that in The Chronicle?

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 13
Poster:	Sam	
Date:	17 December 2005 9:30 PM	

"Hand drawn?!?!

Ahahaha! Priceless...

Was that in The Chronicle? "

My question is, did he show stick figures eating eggs and bacon in the drawings?

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 14
Poster:	iRONic™	
Date:	17 December 2005 11:05 PM	

*Free advertising is priceless*

Ahahaha!!

For an establishment whose doors are closed. After the Grand Opening.

Brilliant!

Posting:	Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner	Posting 15
Poster:	iRONic™	
Date:	17 December 2005 11:06 PM	

*My question is, did he show stick figures eating eggs and bacon in the drawings?*

Heh heh...

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 16  
 Poster: Kate Fortier  
 Date: 18 December 2005 9:45 PM

How about stick figures keeling over from eating something prepared un an unapproved kitchen ...

JUST kidding ... I'm sure it will be a first rate establishment when it's truly up and running ...

Bill ... Windham's accepted hand-drawn plans from developers for years??????

Gee, and we wonder why we don't get any serious interest in real development, with this kind of crackerjack professionalism afoot.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 17  
 Poster: Kate Fortier  
 Date: 18 December 2005 9:52 PM

By the way ...

As a general rule of thumb, while it may work in the land of realty, the adage "any publicity is good publicity" doesn't necessarily apply in the restaurant and medical industries ...

New restaurant plus bad relationship with the Health Department equals wary potential customers ... at best.

He's got the historic landmark thing going for him, though ... I wish him all the luck in the world.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 18  
 Poster: Roger L. Abare  
 Date: 19 December 2005 5:40 AM

Kate, your assumption that all plans submitted are hand drawn is not real. All plans must meet the Building, Fire and Health Codes as adopted by the Town of Windham. And if a hand drawn plan is submitted it must also meet all Codes. I worked in the Building Department and have seen well drawn plans submitted and approved. It is hard for the Town to move forward into a positive image if its citizens to cast a shadow over it. While I can agree that the administration (Political) may not give the Town a total positive image, I know that the employees are dedicated group. Perhaps the Town would benefit if it let citizens shadow the employees once in awhile. See their side of the job and maybe you could help in a more positive way.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 19  
 Poster: rd  
 Date: 19 December 2005 12:51 AM

Roger--I can see that hand drawn plans are accepted IF they are draw to scale. Otherwise how does one review and compare it to code if the required measurements are not readily identifiable.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 20  
 Poster: Kate Fortier  
 Date: 19 December 2005 3:11 PM

"Kate, your assumption that all plans submitted are hand drawn is not real."

You're right, Roger. That assumption is not real as I've assumed no such thing and said nothing of the sort. Mr. Meehan said the town has been accepting hand drawn plans for years and I commented on that.

As John knows, my husband used to be on the ZBA and I am familiar with some of the "artwork" submitted as "plans" for small projects by individual homeowners and large projects by businessowners alike. Not everyone was as astute as John in reaching for the graph paper, let me tell you. Scale? What's that? Some of them reminded me of that scene in "This is Spinal Tap," where the band draws a section of the Stonehenge monument on a napkin for the manager to have designed for one of their stage shows and mistakenly use inches instead of feet ... and it ends up being shorter than the midget they hire to frolic around it.

Bottom line, I have a problem with business owners who habitually flout the rules because they find them inconvenient instead of either living by them or doing something to change them. In my mind, that's far more harmful than someone expressing doubt about a town's policies on a web forum.

And, John dearest ... I understand that you don't lose customers when you hand-draw kitchen plans. But, you might, might, might just lose customers if you've established right out of the chute and very publicly that you have no interest in abiding by structures set in place by the very entity that exists to protect public diners from all manner of health problems. It's the proverbial fly in the soup ...

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 21  
 Poster: John Monaghan  
 Date: 19 December 2005 4:32 PM

It's a hand drawn plan thing, don't try to change the subject Your Wordeyness.

Where is Julie when I need her. Understand she is an authority on donut preperation.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
Poster: Kate Fortier  
Date: 19 December 2005 5:49 PM

Posting 22

I love it when you call me by pet names, John ... ;) {goosebumps}

It is a hand-drawn plan thing ... If a business can't muster a serious set of plans for a construction project or to meet the requirements of the agency from which they need approval, you've got to wonder how professional the end result is going to be. How many other shortcuts are they taking?

Let's remember, guys ... We're talking about a restaurant kitchen here. We're not just talking about throwing up a few studs and some drywall and calling it a day. There are health, fire, and safety codes that have to be adhered to in terms of layout, equipment, and hazard management. And your working with a kitchen-space that is just a teensy, weensy bit outdated.

Now, who knows? ... Mr. Haddad may have been an architect/engineer in his past life, or may just be real handy-dandy with graph paper and a ruler like you. Maybe the drawing does pass muster ... But, as Mr. Sawicki made the effort to point out to the press that the plans were hand-drawn and had only been submitted after Mr. Haddad was forced to shut down because he hadn't complied with the process AND taken shortcuts in a couple other areas, it's a very, very safe guess that these plans may not be the most ... oh ... comprehensive, shall we say?

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
Poster: John ( the righteous one) Monaghan  
Date: 19 December 2005 6:47 PM

Posting 23

Are you saying that if one flunks hand drawn plans one will never be a gormet cook or suburb host?

Granted Mr Haddad may not take rules and regulation seriously, thats wrong but Mr Haddad remembers, not to long ago, that there were few rules and regulations in this town.

I was just pointing out that all plans are drawn by someone or something and that you were wrong in mocking something that you know absolutly nonthing about.

You can't read between the lines, ya gotta read whats there.

Coal in your stocking Miss Kate

Let's remember, guys ... We're talking about a restaurant kitchen here. We're not just talking about throwing up a few studs and some drywall and calling it a day. There are health, fire, and safety codes that have to be adhered to in terms of layout, equipment, and hazard management. And your working with a kitchen-space that is just a teensy, weensy bit outdated.

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Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
Poster: Kate Fortier  
Date: 19 December 2005 7:14 PM

Posting 24

Well, my goodness, Mr. Monaghan ... If it weren't for "reading between the lines," the art of your extreme wit, as demonstrated in your subtle and efficient phrasing, would be lost on everyone ... And what a shame that would be.

If nostalgia for the good old days is Mr. Haddad's problem, then he might want to brush up on the past thirty years. The time warp works where the diner's ambiance is concerned, not where its compliance with current code is.

Don't diamonds come from coal? Why Johnny ... You shouldn't have! I had no idea ... And, I didn't get you a thing!

;) )

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
Poster: Tina  
Date: 20 December 2005 12:55 AM

Posting 25

There are many reasons restaurants are inspected. For example:  
-Is the water in the dishwasher hot enough to sanitize the dishes?

- Is the cook using a utensil when serving ready-to-eat foods?
- Are there proper hand washing facilities?
- Are cleaning fluids, bleach, etc. properly labeled and stored?
- Do the thermometers in the refrigerators work properly?

The old movie cliché of the greasy spoon cook with the five o'clock shadow, flipping burgers with a cigarette hanging out of his mouth is amusing; but I for one am glad that there are strict rules and regulations in regards to operating a restaurant.

Food poisoning is no fun.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 26  
 Poster: iRONic™  
 Date: 20 December 2005 4:00 PM

*Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 29*

*Poster: bill Reply*

*Date: 20 December 2005 3:17 PM*

*Mickey has had several restaurants during his 40 years in business, I am sure he knows the health requirements.*

**A 40 year pro would have had a building CoO and a proper food service liscence prior to opening.**

*I know the health officials have us at heart, But to much government is not good for anyone.*

**If someone were to die in an unlicensed eating establishment the town could be sued for millions. Why do you insist on defending the indefensible?**

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 27  
 Poster: Kate Fortier  
 Date: 20 December 2005 4:47 PM

"If someone were to die in an unlicensed eating establishment the town could be sued for millions."

Oh man, in this day and age, if someone were to bite into stale bread and lose a filling, the lawsuit would be for millions. ;) ;)

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 28  
 Poster: John Monaghan  
 Date: 20 December 2005 4:51 PM

Ron, have you ever notice the deplorable and dire condition of the side walks around town. The town can be sued for millions because of there condition but obviously they don't care.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 29  
 Poster: iRONic™  
 Date: 20 December 2005 4:56 PM

*Oh man, in this day and age, if someone were to bite into stale bread and lose a filling, the lawsuit would be for millions. ;) ;)*

Indeed. Damb lawyers.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 30  
 Poster: Sam  
 Date: 20 December 2005 5:08 PM

"Oh man, in this day and age, if someone were to bite into stale bread and lose a filling, the lawsuit would be for millions. ;) ;)"

I see millions of \$\$\$ in croutons ...

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 31  
 Poster: iRONic™  
 Date: 20 December 2005 5:12 PM

*Ron, have you ever notice the deplorable and dire condition of the side walks around town. The town can be sued for millions because of there condition but obviously they don't care.*

I understand the point you're trying to make, John but I don't think that example is a comparable analogy to an eating establishment being properly certified.

**I'm sure there's some legal caveat somewhere, where it is written[on whatever it is they write it on] that "Your use of our town walkways constitutes consent that you'll watch where you're going, pick your big feet up, and avoid any and all hazardous obstacles. Walking, staggering, or crawling under the influence of alcohol further relieves the aforementioned town of any liability."**

If I'm entering an eating establishment the onus is on them to be properly certified, insured, and in compliance with all zoning codes.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 32

Poster: Damb Law Student  
Date: 20 December 2005 5:13 PM

You who speculate about million dollar lawsuits against the town for a lost filling or for unshoveled sidewalks have no idea what you are talking about. A lost filling would probably get you a bit more than whatever it costs to replace it. You could represent yourself in the People's court and be on TV or the cover of the Rolling Stone

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 33  
Poster: iRONic™  
Date: 20 December 2005 5:19 PM

*You who speculate about million dollar lawsuits against the town for a lost filling or for unshoveled sidewalks have no idea what you are talking about.*

Sarcasm.

Sense of Humor.

Look 'em up.

[www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)

You're welcome.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 34  
Poster: Kate "Sometimes Facetious" Fortier  
Date: 20 December 2005 6:06 PM

Thanks Ironic ...

You know, I was going to write "JUST KIDDING" after my JOKE, but I figured folks would get EXAGGERATION when they read it.

Brother!

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 35  
Poster: Tina  
Date: 20 December 2005 6:14 PM

A lost filling would probably get you a bit more than whatever it costs to replace it.

You forgot about "Pain & Suffering"-that's where the real dough is....

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 36  
Poster: iRONic™  
Date: 20 December 2005 6:19 PM

You know how it goes, Kate. When they register for 'Damb Law Student' school they have to renounce their human emotions.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 37  
Poster: Jared  
Date: 21 December 2005 9:18 PM

Anybody know when the North Windham Diner is to open?

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 38  
Poster: Sam  
Date: 21 December 2005 11:26 PM

"Sure I think if Mr. Haddad has to follow procedure, then he needs to take the necessary steps to make his operation safe and sound. But I ask how many food service establishments are following health codes exactly."

The newest restaurant that opened in Willimantic in my recent memory was the Main Street Cafe. What kind of plans did they originally submit? Were they hand written or were they professionally drafted?

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 39  
Poster: rd  
Date: 22 December 2005 10:56 AM

As I read all these messages about the Diner and the failure to follow regulations or, maybe lack of regulations, its becomes somewhat clearer to understand why the renovation of Main Street is such a dismal failure. If the City can't regulate the opening a diner how do you expect them to plan the redevelopment of Main Street?

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 40  
Poster: Ted Perch  
Date: 22 December 2005 3:36 PM

I think you've got it backwards; the point of the matter is that the town is regulating its businesses. In this case it is a business

owner who is not following the rules pertaining to health and safety that apply to everyone equally.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 41  
 Poster: iRONic™  
 Date: 28 December 2005 5:29 PM

Courtesy of Mr. Monaghan's forum:

*From The Chronicle*

*Editorial*

*We offer these threads, needles*

*Needles*

*to local restaurateur Michael "Mickey" Haddad for his ill- fated attempt to open " Mickey's Windham Diner." It was supposed to be a local hotspot and help toward the turnaround of downtown. Instead, the diner's Dec. 15 opening was illegal. That's because Haddad failed to get the necessary town and health department permits to run a full- service diner, despite telling the press it wouldn't be a problem a couple of days before the " opening." Now, the diner sits closed on Bridge Street, a victim of its owner's decision to open too early. What Haddad has done, though, is draw unnecessary negative publicity to his establishment and left his staff out on a limb without jobs.*

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 42  
 Poster: GET OVER IT  
 Date: 29 December 2005 3:51 PM

GET OVER IT HARRY LOST

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 43  
 Poster: rd  
 Date: 29 December 2005 8:52 PM

Ted, my point was that Willimantic is struggling--30years--to recover from the disaster to Main Street. I assume that the city has a business licensing program that require ALL businesse to be licensend to operate its business in the City. Therefore, any new business, like Mickey's dinner would have to follow established regulations to build/operate a business that would culminate in obtaining an operating license. The operating license would in essence signify that the owner/operator complied with all applicable business requirements according to the city regulations. I saw references to the fact that "hand-drawn" designs of a business are acceptable. My idea is that there is a very strict delineated code for applying for a business license that incorporates interim inspections for each aspect of the process for obtaining a final operating license. However, I get the impression that the City is not up to this task or level of sophistication and therefore is one of the reasons why Main Street remains a ZERO in terms of economic development. I would like to know your viewpoint of why Main St has not made any advancement since the early 70's.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 44  
 Poster: Tina  
 Date: 30 December 2005 9:40 AM

"I would like to know your viewpoint of why Main St has not made any advancement since the early 70's."

RD-That is exactly what I think every time I visit Willimantic and take a walk up Main Street. There are too many empty store fronts- (architecturally interesting ones by the way). Willimantic is a city surrounded by rural places like Columbia, Lebanon, Coventry, not to mention the two local colleges- and it's hard to believe that a combination of privately owned shops and cafes as well as a few chains (such as a Starbucks or a bookstore) couldn't inhabit the downtown and breathe some life into it. The Third Thursdays seem very successful, so it seems that there is a desire for activity-something fun to do, somewhere to go. I remember when the stores on Main Street were open late on Thursday nights, or the annual sidewalk sales- the place was loaded with people and it was fun. It could be that way again.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 45  
 Poster: rd  
 Date: 31 December 2005 1:16 PM

Tina--its a mystery to me!! I grew up in Willi during the good times up thru the early 70's. I use to kid my father that on my next visit I would see a sign at the entrance to Willi (coming from Columbia) that said, "CLOSED DUE TO THE LACK OF INTEREST!" On the town/city web site there is a summary report regarding the plans and redevelopment of Main street but no further action. Apparently, the city politicians don't care and the state reps don't either as long as the city remains a dumping ground for the state's people problems.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 46  
 Poster: iRONic™  
 Date: 31 December 2005 4:35 PM

*A stigma that Access Agency is fully responsible for.*

Ahahahahahahaha!

Not...

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner Posting 47  
 Poster: Tina



Date: 31 December 2005 8:04 PM

"CLOSED DUE TO THE LACK OF INTEREST!"

RD it's funny and very sad all at the same time because it's so true! The first time I brought my boyfriend (now husband) home with me, we went driving up in the hill section and he (like myself) was in love with all of the beautiful old homes. Then we parked the car on Pleasant Street and walked over the footbridge (he was still impressed) to Main Street- and that's where his jaw dropped. He couldn't fathom why in such a beautiful town there was no thriving Main Street.

I hear over and over on this sight that there is a "lack of vision" as far as the local politicians go, and yet they keep getting re-elected. WHY? And you're right, the town has become a dumping ground. Which is a shame because it's in close proximity to Boston and New York. Willimantic looks like a Hollywood movie version of an all American small town, it's so sad that the local politicians can't see what we do.

A Healthy and Happy 2006 To One And All!

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
 Poster: rd  
 Date: 2 January 2006 9:36 AM

Posting 48

iRONic -- If I understand your remark, I did not intend or mean that Access Agency is responsible for the economic development of the city. They may very well be part of the problem in that local and state politicians have a common understanding that Willim and Eastern Conn will remain a welfare wilderness. I just don't understand why is there is such INACTION, LACK OF ACTION, etc regarding plans for the economic development of Main Street. There seems to be sufficient planning for building another parking garage--for who?? If there is not any retail businesses on Main St who's going to park n' shop? What's happening on Main St in Norwich? I think I read that they are making headway and revitalizing the business area??

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
 Poster: Diner  
 Date: 29 January 2006 2:05 PM

Posting 49

I'm told that Mickey's Windam Diner will reopen on the morning of Thursday February 2nd. It will be great to see the vintage diner serving the public again.

Posting: Re: Mickey'sWindham Diner  
 Poster: Bruin  
 Date: 31 January 2006 1:02 PM

Posting 50

Have to respond to the Norwich development. I've lived in Windham and Norwich and I consider them sister city/towns. . .

Downtown development takes time. Norwich's development started with a charter revision that created a mayor form of government. The mayor is chiefly responsibility is economic development. Two democrats got nasty in the first election for mayor, they split the vote and the republican got in for a 4-year term. He is a retired banker and worked hard with the democrats on the city council to make things happen for Norwich. Being a republican helped him bend the governor's ear. Mayor Art Lathrop did his term and moved things forward and didn't run for second term. Now it is Mayor Ben Lathrop's (democrat and not related to Art) time to move Norwich forward.

The Norwich schools system has 30 spoken languages, because it is one of the few towns/cities around the casinos with affordable rental housing for workers. The large box stores build in other towns like Lisbon, Montville, and Waterford. Norwich has a boom in residential housing that will bring in more students to educate. We'll have to see if the mayor and city council can keep Norwich moving forward.

Downtown looks great, the eyesore hotel is getting fixed, the library is being rebuilt, new office space created out of dumpy looking buildings, and a burned down mill was cleaned up and turned into a waterfront park. The Navigators became the CT Defenders and extended their lease in the Norwich Industrial Park.

Windham had no charter revision. It now has Windham House, the mills have been rebuilt, a new park in South Windham, and big box development in North Windham.