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Showing postings 1 - 42 of 42 in the thread: Windham Diners!.

Posting: Windham Diners! Poster: Godfrey Postlethwaite Date: 15 January 2005 7:25 AM	Posting 1
<p>I hear on good authority that the town will soon have two operating diners! Apparently Micky Haddad has purchased the old Windham Diner that stood between Union and Main near the Jillson museum. It is now in Danbury, and he's bringing back home, and putting it in the mall of Bridge Street, next to the Willimantic River. Also, the abandoned South Windham diner will soon be moved to one of the strip malls opposite Walmart on Route 6 in North Windham, and reopened!</p> <p>Were there any other diners in Windham? I do not recall any, but I am old enough to recall the Windham Diner near to the old railroad crossing.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Tony Date: 15 January 2005 8:36 AM	Posting 2
<p>I seem to remember there was some kind of diner on Main street where Dunkin Donuts is today, next to the town hall. Does anyone else remember that, or am I imagining it?</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Francis "Whitey" Sellars Date: 15 January 2005 9:05 AM	Posting 3
<p>Tony the diner you are thinking about I think was where the dairy queen is now. I seem to remember a diner where marios bakery is on main st. left of the capital theater. Also two more diners one next to the coin shop or the old mangano's shoe repair shop.This one was owned by a fellow named Joe Putnik. The other one was where the post office is now. I hope my memory hasn't misled me.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Ernie Gesner Date: 15 January 2005 10:40 AM	Posting 4
<p>Wasn't John's Tavern just east of the Coca Cola bottling Co. a converted diner?</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Anonymouse Date: 15 January 2005 7:08 PM	Posting 5
<p>You are right Ernie! However, since John's Tavern that old diner was The Iron Horse, and is now the Trolley Pub, because I think it stands across from where the old trolley car sheds stood.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Willi old timer Date: 15 January 2005 7:34 PM	Posting 6
<p>There were three diners that I remember, the Windham Diner between Union and Main, Joe Putnik's diner to the right of the Capital theater and Archie Dubina's diner on the site where Dairy Queen now sits.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Ernie Gesner Date: 15 January 2005 8:08 PM	Posting 7
<p>Anonymouse I have been away from Willimantic for over 50 years. I have only been back a few times, so reading all the discussions brings back a lot of fond memories.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Walker Date: 15 January 2005 10:07 PM	Posting 8
<p>South Windham Diner details here - a good bargain for \$8500...plus moving expense, new lot purchase and preparation, and complete renovation inside and out...</p> <p>http://www.dinermuseum.org/dinersforsale/diner9/dinerforsale9.php</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Godfrey Postlethwaite Date: 16 January 2005 2:26 PM	Posting 9
<p>Thanks for that link Walker! This is a great site, and on it is a picture of the Windham Diner that once stood between Union and Main. It is pictured at its current location in Danbury, and this is the one that will soon be moved to Route 6 in North Windham.</p>	
	
Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Poster: Walker Date: 16 January 2005 11:42 PM	Posting 10
<p>Thank you, Godfrey. Having frequented Chrome Diners for many years, I find that site very interesting.</p>	

Although more of a Central Connecticut culinary treat, anyone ever eaten a Steamed Cheeseburger? Yummy!!

It is a Chrome Diner classic - a specially-built machine steams the burger patties, and a little tray of cheese, at the same time. Once the burger is on a bun, the cheese is poured on top.

From my limited knowledge, I recall the device was popular in the Connecticut Valley region. There were several diners I used to get 'em at. Supposedly, the steaming process removed more fat, resulting in a healthier burger. Delicious and good for you, or your taste buds at any rate LOL!!

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Dennis O'Brien
 Date: 17 January 2005 8:23 AM

Posting 11

When I worked for Connecticut Legal Services, which has its central office in Middletown, I often had lunch with our then executive director, Norman Janes of South Windham, at a terrific diner called O'Rourke's on Main Street. O'Rourke's menu featured steamed cheeseburgers. On Norm's recommendation, I tried one and couldn't bring myself to order anything else at O'Rourke's for quite a while. Delicious, on a par with Capitol Lunch hot dogs in my old home town of New Britain. I was told steam cheeseburgers are a Meriden-Middletown specialty. Capitol Lunch has expanded to Storrs. Maybe we can bring steamed cheeseburgers to downtown Willimantic! Bon appetit.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Ada
 Date: 17 January 2005 1:46 PM

Posting 12

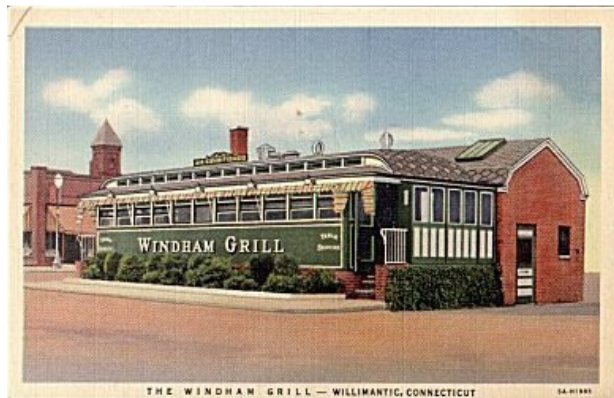
O'Rourke's was written up in Gourmet magazine a while back.

Re the Windham Diner between Union and Main Streets: The original diner was/was like a railroad car. I seem to remember that it was green. Later it was "upgraded" (in the 1950's?) and replaced with the aluminum diner. The new location described sounds not too far from the original location.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Godfrey Postlethwaite
 Date: 19 January 2005 11:53 AM

Posting 13

Looking at my old postcards makes me feel old! I remember the Windham Grill! I think it was moved sometime after WW2, and the one now at Waterbury was put in its place. Anyway, here's old the long gone Windham Grill, but it was not as colorful, and more delapidated than this when I remember it:



Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: rd
 Date: 19 January 2005 2:07 PM

Posting 14

Never heard of "steamed cheeseburgers" but if its method is to get rid of the fat--is it similar to the George Foreman grill. Can't imagine what steamed hamburger would taste like>

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: W Walker
 Date: 24 January 2005 7:24 PM

Posting 15

Buying & moving classic Silver Diners in the Sunday Funnies - just this last sunday!! The daily comic strip Zippy often celebrates Classic Diners and their culture. Fittingly, yesterday's sunday edition was very relevant to this very thread.

I don't know if this forum allows html, so I will try to post a picture. First, a direct link if it doesn't work.

<http://zippythepinhead.com/Merchant2/graphics/00000001/sundays/images/012305.gif>



Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Ada
 Date: 27 January 2005 10:02 AM

Posting 16

O'Rourke's was written up in Gourmet magazine a while back.

Re the Windham Diner between Union and Main Streets: The original diner was/was like a railroad car. I seem to remember that it was green. Later it was "upgraded" (in the 1950's?) and replaced with the aluminum diner. The new location described sounds not too far from the original location.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Frogpond
 Date: 28 January 2005 9:28 PM

Posting 17

I asked about this Ada, and I'm told on good authority by someone who was brought up on Union Street that the old, green colored wooden diner was removed in 1950, and replaced with the one then removed during redevelopment. I seem to recall that you were from the Union street area. Did you ever use either diner?

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Francis "Whitey" Sellars
 Date: 28 January 2005 10:10 PM

Posting 18

I think the last person to run the windham diner was george haddad. He was also before that was the manager of the gem theater. They served really good food there when steve chontos ran the diner.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Ernie Gesner
 Date: 28 January 2005 11:43 PM

Posting 19

In the early fities he was the chef at the Natan Hale Hotel and wore that large chefs hat around town. He also had the first Volkswagon Bug that I had ever seen.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: oldie
 Date: 29 January 2005 9:15 AM

Posting 20

The Windham Diner was located on the strip between Union Street (the part no longer there) and Main Street. Broad Street, which was to the west of Jackson, and parallel to Jackson was opposite the diner. To place the diner today you would go to the Jillson Museum and head west about 50 feet for the location. The next building to the west was Moe Rosen's Gas Station with parking between the two buildings. The Windham Grill became the Windham Diner in 1951 and was finally leveled in the early 1970's.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Ada
 Date: 1 February 2005 10:28 AM

Posting 21

I did eat at least a couple of times in both the older and newer diner. My grandmother's little grocery store was opposite that cut-through between the Windham Grill and the Mobil gas station. (The whole street and building shook every time a train went by!) My grandmother was an excellent cook and money was scarce, so in those early years especially, we rarely "ate out." A bit later, when my parents' store relocated to Union St., my father usually ate lunch at Lindy's.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Mary Lee Bradley
 Date: 2 February 2005 10:11 PM

Posting 22

Love the picture. Like you, it was older and not as colorful when my Dad used to take me there. My Mom worked a Hallock's Restaurant and when she worked on Sat. nights, my Dad would take to the Windam Grill and then to the movies. We went so often the waitress would look at me and say "BLT on toast and a coke." Do you remember how the waitresses did not have order pads? They just punched tickets for the amounts of items ordered and kept the order in their heads. I remember when the new diner came, it seemed huge. I believe that Zips diner in Danielson is it's twin. Ah, the memories!

Posting: Re: Windham Diners!
 Poster: Dagmar Noll
 Date: 9 February 2005 6:48 AM

Posting 23

I think Zips is the only ral, classic diner I've ever eaten in.

News of the two diners being revived and returned, respectively, to Windham has been in the Chronicle a great deal lately. I read that the one coming from Waterford is going to be put on Bridge Street.

Does anyone know where it will be, exactly? It must be on the Main Street side of the river, as houses are packed along Bridge Street on the other side.

Dagmar

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 24
 Poster: Godfrey Postlethwaite
 Date: 9 February 2005 7:19 AM

Good Morning Dagmar -- the other diner, which I think is coming from Waterbury rather than Waterford, is going into the Bridge Street plaza where the old cotton mills used to be. I Understand that the old Windham Diner is going next to the river, where the bar is now. In the 1980s that bar was a nice restaurant, where you could have lunch as you looked at the waterfall that once powered the mills.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 25
 Poster: Dagmar Noll
 Date: 9 February 2005 7:28 AM

Thanks for the reply, Godfrey.

When you say it is going where the bar is now, do you mean it's moving in next to it, or is it actually replacing the bar?

Dagmar

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 26
 Poster: Godfrey
 Date: 9 February 2005 12:55 AM

This is only from the good 'ol rumor mill, Dagmar, but I heard that Mr. Haddad is going to demolish the bar, or part of it, so the old Windham diner will be overlooking the Willimantic river. This is a great location, as is the new site for the old South Windham diner at North Windham's commercial alley.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 27
 Poster: Dagmar Noll
 Date: 10 February 2005 7:34 AM

Godfrey -

I'll keep your disclaimer in mind, but the diner that may go in on Bridge St. would be very close to me, and the prospect of eating in a retro-futuristic diner overlooking the waterfall is really cool.

Best,

Dagmar

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 28
 Poster: Gregg Anderson
 Date: 12 February 2005 2:01 PM

I will post later this week the time and day the diner will arrive in Willimantic..

Gregg Anderson
 American Diner Museum
www.americandinermuseum.org

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 29
 Poster: Gregg
 Date: 12 February 2005 2:08 PM

The Windham Grill was built by the Worcester Lunch Car Co. of Worcester, MA. The Grill was replaced by the the stainless steel Windham Diner on the same location. It is the Windam Diner that is returning to Willimantic. The American Diner Museum has resued and found new owners for about 25 historic diner over the past 10 years.

Gregg Anderson
 American Diner Museum
www.americandinermuseum.org

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 30
 Poster: Gregg
 Date: 15 February 2005 3:00 PM

Stop by Bridge St. near the Rail Road Museum in Willimantic around 7-8AM Friday morning to see the return of the Windam Diner To Willimantic.

Gregg Anderson
 American Diner Museum
www.americandinermuseum.org

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 31
 Poster: Walker
 Date: 15 February 2005 10:39 PM

Is it rolling in on the rails? Wow!!

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 32
 Poster: Godfrey
 Date: 16 February 2005 3:21 PM

I hear on the good old rumor mill this morning that the old Windham diner is returning home a day early, and will arrive at the Bridge street shopping plaza between 7 am and 8 am tomorrow morning, Thursday.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 33
 Poster: Gregg
 Date: 16 February 2005 4:39 PM

Make that closer to 6AM coming down Main St. Thursday morning not Friday.

Thanks
 Hope to see many of you there...

Gregg

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 34
 Poster: JayJay
 Date: 16 February 2005 5:22 PM

It would be great if someone could take pictures of the arrival and post them here for us "out-of-staters". Thanks in advance.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 35
 Poster: JayJay
 Date: 20 February 2005 9:20 PM

A story in Saturday's (?) Providence Journal, byline Waterbury, CT stated that some \$10,000 or more taxes are owed to that city on the Windham Diner. I tried to find the article on the Journal's site (PROJO.COM) without success. The paper apparently got trashed early this morning. I'll check my recycle bin in the backyard tomorrow. Also, a Google search listed an article on www.wtopnews.com/index.php about the diner's return home. If you go to that site, search for "Windham Diner" to get down to the details. While the outstanding taxes could complicate clear title, the WTOP article showed the diner arriving in Willimantic.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 36
 Poster: Walker
 Date: 20 February 2005 9:41 PM

This could be a very confusing issue. Is the property owner (the one who actually owes the taxes) the owner of the lot in Waterbury, or the owner of the building removed from the lot. Logic would indicate the land owner is the taxee, no? But the object that merited the tax rate in the first place - the diner - was bought, and removed, by another.

How does this issue work for, say, Mobile Homes? In that case the structure is owned by one and the land by another. Do both get separate property tax bills? I do not know...

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 37
 Poster: Walker
 Date: 20 February 2005 10:01 PM

Another postcard of the Windham Grill

<http://www.agilitynut.com/p/windham.jpg>



And a picture of Michael Haddad's new purchase from Yahoo Asia Edition !!

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/050217/ap/ctjs10102171745.html>



It is World-Wide News !!

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 38
 Poster: Ada
 Date: 21 February 2005 11:12 AM

The building in the background with the awnings (on what was Union St.) at one time housed a food co-op.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 39
 Poster: Godfrey
 Date: 21 February 2005 11:40 AM

Thanks Walker. That's a great picture of the diner and Mr Haddad. I'm not sure about the tax issue though. Anyway, here's an another attempt to put the picture on the forum for the exiles:



Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 40
 Poster: Gregg
 Date: 21 February 2005 5:37 PM

I will post as sure as it is confirmed when the next diner will move this week.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 41
 Poster: Gregg
 Date: 23 February 2005 1:44 AM

stop in at the north windham shopping plaza thursday morning and you should see the south windham diner there.

Posting: Re: Windham Diners! Posting 42
 Poster: Dagmar Noll
 Date: 23 February 2005 7:57 AM

Two diners coming back to Windham at the same time-- what fun!

I got a chance to stop by the Bridge Street Plaza a couple hours after the diner was brought in, and peek inside. Many cars were turning into the plaza for a look.

Thanks for keeping us up-to-date on the diners, Gregg. The museum's web site was also fun to poke around in.

Best,

Dagmar