

Berlin has a bustling, diverse business community

By **CHARLES PAULLIN**
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BERLIN — Over the past three years, more than 60 businesses have opened, relocated or expanded to a town in the area. Located in the geographic center of the state, Berlin is

a community where it's beneficial to live, work and play, according to Economic Development Director Chris Edge.

"People that live or work in Berlin, in fact that love Berlin, have been tremendous because there is 'Berlin Pride' which includes the support of the local businesses and cooperation with each other," said Edge.

The town is approximately 26 square miles with a main strip down Farmington Avenue, several industrial parks nestled throughout a community that treasures open space and has high volume traffic from the Berlin Turnpike.

From companies like Budney Aerospace and Comcast, to the largest Acura dealership in the state, locally owned pet food and feed store A.S. Labieniec and a family run restaurant, The Avenue, the market make-up in Berlin is diverse.

"Berlin seems to be swaying toward a healthier, more active community," Edge said, with Box Bistro and its meal prep



Photo courtesy of Chris Edge

James Bannon, with his family and town officials, cuts the ribbon for the opening of his Box Bistro business, one of several to open in town over the past few years.

services, ProNatural Physicians Group and its naturopathic and allopathic medical services, and multiple modern gyms opening up in town.

Willing to help throughout every step of the way for business and residents is the lean and mean staff at Town Hall run by Jack Healy, recently appointed town manager, who has both public and private experience and is committed to community

involvement.

The town also has Marek "Mark" Kozikowski, recently appointed town planner, who will work with people to find what works within the zoning regulation and what can be changed to help the business and town altogether.

Also helping business boom in town is Mayor Mark Kaczynski, who recently approved a seven year tax-abatement for Forrest Machine to relocate to Berlin from Rocky Hill and build a new 55,000 square foot facility set to open in June.

"The mayor, Town Council and Board of Finance have been very supportive of my efforts," said Edge.

Edge said he is next looking forward to the conclusion of the RFQ process for the 3.82 acre town-owned site next to the train station that in June will be adding the Hartford Line commuter service to the already running Amtrak service at the station.

"We have a great Economic Development Commission and some great property owners in town who get creative with their properties and their tenants" said Edge, of the overall busi-

ness climate in town.

For more information on doing business in Berlin, call Edge at 860-828-7005.

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