

## Local News

June 23, 2010

SEARCH



HOME NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS OPINION A&amp;E MULTIMEDIA

marketplace real estate jobs cars classifieds obituaries coupons pets

## Local businesses in need of boost are 'tickled pink' by EB's decision

By Kathleen Edgecomb

Publication: The Day

Published 06/22/2010 12:00 AM Updated 06/22/2010 11:53 AM

COMMENTS ( 17 )

SHARE

PRINT

### Company is expected to bring 2,200 workers to NL

**New London** — Shortly after the announcement that Electric Boat was buying the 33-acre Pfizer complex on Pequot Avenue and eventually bringing about 2,200 workers to the city, Graham Thompson went to his Facebook page.

"Just put the gun back in the desk drawer," the owner of Stash's Cafe posted. "It's official, EB is moving into the Pfizer building across the street."

"You know it was a joke," Thompson said later when contacted by telephone. "I don't have a gun."

Thompson was elated Monday when rumors that EB would occupy the Pfizer complex were confirmed. He said he's been working "mostly pro bono" for the past year, as the departure of Pfizer employees from New London only added to economic troubles.

"Times are tough," he said. "This is good news for everyone."

Pfizer announced in November it was moving out of its \$300 million research and development center, just shy of its 10-year anniversary in the city, and moving its workforce to the Groton campus. Business owners and city leaders were devastated by the news.

For months EB wouldn't confirm the rumors that the company was planning to buy the complex, saying only that it was looking for additional office space for its expanding design department.

"We've been in limbo for a long time, wondering what was going on," said Juan Madry, who works at nearby Raiders Roost and Kitchen on Shaw Street. "Now we're all smiling and tickled pink."

Stash's and Raiders Roost were among the restaurants that drew Pfizer employees for lunch and after-work drinks and faced a substantial loss of business with the exit of the pharmaceutical giant.

Now, local restaurant owners are optimistic the influx of workers, including engineers and entry-level draftsmen, will be a boon for business.

"Who knows what's going to happen?" said Thompson. "But Pfizer was a positive effect on business, and so will EB."

Others in the business community were also celebrating the news.

"This is a major league home run for the city of New London, Pfizer, Electric Boat and the entire region," Tony Sheridan, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, said in a prepared statement. "EB's decision to take over this site is just another sign of New London's importance as a vibrant place to do business."

### Related Stories

[EB buys Pfizer's NL complex](#)


**Niantic Mortgage Protection Insur.**  
Pays off your mortgage in the event of your death.  
Get a free quote!  
[More info...](#)



**Niantic: Local Mom Makes \$77/hr Online!**  
Unemployed Mom Makes \$6,397/Month Working Online! Read How She Did It.  
[Get details...](#)

### Popular on theday.com

STORIES MEDIA DISCUSSED

### Most-Read Stories

[Man charged in connection with NL shooting death](#)
[EB buys Pfizer's NL complex](#)
[Medicaid coverage expanded to single adults](#)
[VT cops say suspect in '78 homicides died in Ariz.](#)
[Search for new doctors in high gear after closure of Norwich OB/GYN Group](#)
[Madison police seek arrests of parents in teen party death](#)
[Local businesses in need of boost are 'tickled pink' by EB's decision](#)
[Police Logs - June 22](#)

### Town News

Choose a town

GO

what is zip06? | my profile

POLLS

GRADUATION 2010

### Most Recent Poll

Should Electric Boat get tax abatements on the former Pfizer property?

Yes

45%

No

55%

Number of votes: 1016



### Broadband2Go

with No Annual Contract

• 3G Nationwide Wireless Internet

• Plans as low as \$20/mo

SAVE \$20  
GET IT NOW  
\$79.99



GET CONNECTED  
4LESS ▶

Mayor Rob Pero, who attended the morning press conference at the Pfizer site, said the news could mean additional businesses and more customers for existing restaurants and shops. "It's a great day," he said.

Businesses that deal with EB and the Navy could sprout up, Pero added. "It will have a ripple effect," he said. "The offshoot of people who want to eat in restaurants and live in New London is valuable."

Anthony Silvestri, project manager for New London Harbour Towers on Bank Street, said he has received telephone calls from those who recently took jobs at EB about the nine-story condominium project under construction.

"We have three EB-related contracts in the works," Silvestri said. "I hate to say the same quote over and over again, but the stars are all in alignment. It's all good."

City Councilor Michael Buscetto III echoed the optimism. "It's great news," he said. "Now we have an opportunity for new people to be looking for housing in New London. ... Hopefully we can work with EB and entice people to live here."

Buscetto said 165 people who work at Pfizer live in New London. He's hoping even more EB workers will move into the city.

"Empty buildings are good for nobody," he said. "I'm thankful they chose New London."

[CLICK TO SEE ALL COMMENTS](#) 

[QUERY](#)

[CHATS](#)

### We want your graduation photos

Hear that? Somewhere, a band is playing "Pomp and Circumstance," because somewhere, someone is graduating. We want your favorite photo of your graduate.



[MORE QUERIES](#)



#### Niantic Mortgage Protection Insur.

Pays off your mortgage in the event of your death. Get a free quote!

[More info...](#)



#### Niantic: Local Mom Makes \$77/hr Online!

Unemployed Mom Makes \$6,397/Month Working Online! Read How She Did It.

[Get details...](#)

### Quick Links

- |                              |                                 |                                 |                                    |   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">Today's News</a> | <a href="#">Puzzles</a>         | <a href="#">Reader Services</a> | <a href="#">Feedback/Submit</a>    | <a href="#">About The Day</a>             |
| <a href="#">Calendar</a>     | <a href="#">Horoscopes</a>      | <a href="#">Subscribe</a>       | <a href="#">FAQs</a>               | <a href="#">Contact Us/Staff Profiles</a> |
| <a href="#">RSS</a>          | <a href="#">Lottery Numbers</a> | <a href="#">E-Paper</a>         | <a href="#">Photo Reprints</a>     | <a href="#">Site Map</a>                  |
| <a href="#">Blogs</a>        | <a href="#">Weather</a>         | <a href="#">Advertise</a>       | <a href="#">Full-page Reprints</a> | <a href="#">Jobs at The Day</a>           |
| <a href="#">TV</a>           | <a href="#">Milestones</a>      | <a href="#">About Our Ads</a>   | <a href="#">Printing Services</a>  | <a href="#">Privacy Policy/Terms</a>      |

**theday.com**

860-442-2200  
The Day Publishing Company  
New London, CT USA  
Copyright © 1998 - 2010

You could save up to \$322\*  
on car insurance right now.



Enter your zip code

**START QUOTE >**

[\\* Details](#)