



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, Community Development Director

DATE: December 4th, 2014

SUBJECT: **Economic Development Activities Report for November 2014**

Business and Development Activity

Downtown Urbana

- Work is complete for the remodel of the second floor of 115 W Main Street to accommodate the expansion of Applied Pavement Technology's corporate headquarters.
- Work continues at Lord & Lacy BBQ restaurant, located at 115 W Main, which is expected to open before the end of the year.
- Demolition and stabilization work continues at 204 W Main for the creation of an outdoor market.
- Work is nearing completion for Emma's Eatery, the new diner and video gambling establishment to be located in the Urbana Crossing strip at the former Quizno's location.
- Staff continues to work with CBRE on the preparation of a Request for Proposals for the redevelopment of 200 Vine. The RFP will be issued in January.
- Black Rock Pizza in Lincoln Square has closed. The owner cited inadequate evening customers as a main contributor to his decision to close.
- Strawberry Fields will soon close its doors. Another business has been reported to be opening in the space in early 2015, but details have not been made publically available.
- A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the completion of major work at the Boneyard Creek Improvement Project on November 21st.

University-Medical

- Construction of a new building shell at Gateway Shoppes at 110 E University Avenue is underway.
- Steel framing is being erected and foundation work continues for the Campus Circle apartment complex on University Avenue.

Philo Road

- OmniBarre held a ribbon cutting on November 20th for its new fitness studio at 2740 S Philo Rd in the Pines at Stone Creek Commons.
- Design Decisions, a new hair studio, held a ribbon cutting at 1717 S Philo Road in Sunnycrest Mall.
- Ruler Foods announced that it will close its Philo Road location on December 6th due to lack of customer traffic and sales. The two Champaign locations will remain open and the Philo Road employees will be transferred to other store locations.
- Renovation is complete for the new AT&T Store at The Pines at Stone Creek Commons between Subway and Café Zojo.

North Lincoln Avenue

- The former Holiday Inn at 1001 W Killarney Street has completed its rebranding to a Wyndham Garden Inn.
- Work continues for the \$1.6 million renovation of the new Illinois American Water office and service distribution facility at 1406 N Cardinal Ct which is expected to be completed in early 2015.
- Work is ongoing on the new catering kitchen for Hendrick House at 801 W Killarney St.

Marketing and Events Activity

- City staff presented a series of afterschool enrichment courses at Yankee Ridge Elementary School. Each class focused on one of the City departments previously noted, and the services they provide to the community, as geared towards children in Kindergarten through third grade.
- The December edition of “It’s All About U” is now available.
- The Marketing Coordinator and the Director of Community Development attended meetings of the IHSA boys state basketball bid committee. The Director also co-chaired the Community Sub-Committee along with Champaign City Manager Dorothy David.

Urbana’s Market at the Square

- The Market Director attend the Local and Regional Food Summit on Thursday, November 13th in Normal, Illinois, hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau.
- The estimated patron attendance during the 2014 Market season was 123,733 visitors. This number averages 4,582 patrons each day of the market. The 2014 total is nearly identical to 2013 total of 123,933 estimated visitors over the 27-week season.
- There were a total of 161 vendors who participated in the 2014 Market season, up slightly from 2013 which brought in 158 vendors. Combined with the 71 community groups which attended the Market, there were over 231 registered participants during the 2014 season.

Public Arts Program



- The final three works for the 2014-2016 cycle of the Urbana Sculpture Project have been installed: Stranger Reduction Zone by artist Timothy Flood (Denver, CO) in front of the Urbana Free Library, Twistah Tous by Bennett Wine (West Kill, NY) near the corner of Philo and Washington, and Athirst by Sarah Deppe (Madison, WI) by Boneyard Creek near the corner of Race and Griggs.
- Pauline Tannos has been hired as an Public Arts Intern. Pauline holds a Masters in Arts Administration. She will run the Public Arts grants cycle and is also assisting with many duties in this transition period.

- A spring event to celebrate the completed Boneyard improvement is being planned for April 15th, 2015. There have been discussions to have performances, arts activities for children, food trucks parked nearby, and an arts exhibition at this event. Artist Jack Mackie will also be honored at a commemoration of the Boneyard.
- The Urbana Arts Grants Program 2015 has opened. Deadline for applications is January 16th, 2015 at 5:00pm. This program is promoted through posters and flyers, ads on MTD buses and the UBA newsletter, ads on smilepolitely.com, social media posts, e-mail blasts, and community presentations. The presentations will take place at the University (Dec 3), Parkland College (Dec 10), and tentatively the Independent Media Center (Dec 12).
- ArtNow!, the Public Arts Program's one-hour show on UPTV, completed its 50th episode with local sculptor Rick Larimore, as well as its 51st episode, which premiered on December 1st at 6:30pm, and features sculptor Christiane T. Martens.
- Prairie Elementary School has submitted a proposal for a \$3,000 Arts in the School grant. A representative of the school will present at the Public Arts Commission meeting on December 9th.

Other Updates

- Economic Development Specialist Kate Ferrer will be moving to Cincinnati, Ohio where her husband has accepted a position at Procter & Gamble. A going away event to celebrate Kate's work with Urbana will be held at Pizza M on Friday, December 19th from 4-6pm in the back room.
- Staff continues working in conjunction with Campaign County on the establishment of a new Urbana Enterprise Zone. All of the taxing partners approached by the City have agreed to participate in property tax abatements in the new zone. This will greatly strengthen Urbana's application and allow for more robust incentives if the zone is approved by the state. Staff will be working diligently through the month of December to complete the application process.
- The annual TIF Joint Review Board Meeting will be held on December 9th at 2:30pm in the City Council Chambers.
- A successful Business and Development Roundtable was held at the Urbana Civic Center on November 18th. Economic Development Manager Brandon Boys presented "Urbana Business: Year in Review" to showcase startups, restaurants, employee growth, and new developments. A preview of some highlights from the recent Urbana Business Survey results was shared along with an update on the progress toward establishing a new Enterprise Zone.
- City employees in several departments are participating in a discussion with a UIUC urban planning course on making City services more accessible to immigrants.
- Economic Development staff held retention visits with four businesses who recently received Business Development Grants: Ditchstock, Error Records, Farm League Skateshop, and Adjacency.
- Economic Development Intern Miles Thomas is leading an effort with City staff to assess Urbana's options for a Build It With KaBoom! grant. The grant would fund playground equipment which would be installed with the help of community volunteers. Sites are being surveyed city-wide for their suitability with an emphasis on identifying potential properties in the Lierman neighborhood.

Memorandum



TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor
FROM: Cynthia Chandler, Executive Director
DATE: December 1, 2014
SUBJECT: Urbana Business Association Activities Report for November 2014

Membership Growth

The 2014 membership year has seen the addition of 48 new member businesses, including five new members in the month of November. This brings our membership count to 193 member businesses.

Staffing

The UBA has added a part-time Special Events Assistant to help with both the Holiday Market and Middle Market seasons. Daniel Urban started his position on Saturday, November 8, and will continue working each Saturday through December 20.

Holiday Market

In its 12th year, the Holiday Market kicked off with a bang on Saturday, November 8, with 55 vendors in attendance. This is a 25% increase in vendor participation over the first week of 2013. Similar to the growth of vendors, attendance was also greatly increased over 2013. Similar growth in vendors and attendance were evident in the second and third weeks of the market. The fourth week, November 29, saw vendor participation at capacity with a waiting list each week ahead in December has a waiting list for vendors. A new addition to this year's market was a blood drive on November 15.

Other Sponsorships

The UBA sponsored and assisted with the promotion of the *CU Folk & Roots Festival* which took place on November 7-8.

UBA Magic Motors Holiday Party

The annual UBA Magic Motors Holiday Party has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. This event will again be held at the showroom of Allen & Nancy Strong, featuring their collection of vintage cars, furs, and hats. Silvercreek will again cater this annual event.

Sweetcorn Festival 2015

The previously stated dates for the 2015 Urbana Sweetcorn Festival have been adjusted to continue with the tradition of holding the festival on the weekend before Labor Day weekend. The 2015 Urbana Sweetcorn Festival will be held on August 28-29.