

QUARTERLY BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Economic Development Division

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor

August 2020



Updates

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

Staff has been in close communication with business owners, property owners, local artists, and farmers' market vendors in response to this crisis. The resource page created on the City webpage for all COVID-19 resources (<https://www.urbanaininois.us/COVID-19>) has been continually updated and includes a section specifically for businesses (<https://www.urbanaininois.us/COVID-19/business-resources>).

Staff worked diligently to disseminate information about resources and funding to area businesses. Several local businesses received the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funds for which applicants could start applying in April and a few Urbana businesses received funds through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). Twenty eight businesses received funding through the CDBG-CV Small Business Grant administered by Sheila Dodd.

Some businesses have been very innovative and continue to seek ways to reach customers through curbside pick-up, delivery, and online. Staff has worked with local businesses to coordinate permits allowing outdoor drinking, dining, and shopping options on public property. Saturday Sidewalk Sales have been coordinated with the UBA and businesses have been encouraged to participate in order to reach customers who may not yet feel comfortable shopping indoors.

CITY EVENTS

The Urbana Market at the Square is successfully operating following the Governor's Phase IV and health department guidelines. Staff have guided vendors and patrons through the safety requirements of masks, social distancing, hand washing, and one-way traffic flow. In fact, Market Manager, Bryan Heaton, and Program Specialist, HeatherAnn Hicks-Layman, laid out such a safe plan that the Urbana market has been used as a model by the Illinois Farmers Market Association to train other markets. Attendance at the market has reached over 3,000 people on select Saturdays and will continue to grow as a greater variety of produce becomes available and more artisan vendors participate. In comparison, 2019 attendance in July and early August was over 4000.

Rachel Storm, leading the Urbana's Arts & Culture Program, has successfully produced a wide variety of creative offerings for the public without the ability to host events. At the start of the pandemic, Poets on a Park Bench, a miniseries where Urbana's Poet Laureate Will Reger interviews a local poet, quickly

pivoted and became Poets in a Pandemic. Episodes are available at www.facebook.com/urbanapublicarts/. A wonderful new mural was installed as part of the Murals on Glass project called “In the Sunshine” by BLACKMAU (Kamau Grantham and Stacey Robinson) and is on display at the Cunningham Township building in Urbana. Finally, Urbana Arts and Culture collaborated with several local organizations in a call for artists to submit work for The Great ARTDoors. Local artists were awarded stipends to create outdoor installations in several Champaign and Urbana parks and community gardens. Watch for the new pieces to be installed on August 24th where they will remain until November 20th.



“In the Sunshine” a new Mural on Glass by BLACKMAU installed at the Cunningham Township building

UPDATES

Work is proceeding on Urbana’s three largest new construction projects this summer: the Gather mixed-use project at University and Lincoln Avenues, the 200 Vine townhomes project, and the 1007 University Avenue apartment project.



200 Vine townhouse development under construction



Gather, a mixed-use development at 410 Lincoln

NEW BUSINESSES, EXPANSIONS & CHANGES

Even during a pandemic, entrepreneurs continue to start new businesses in Urbana. Downtown has seen several new business openings within the past few months including Ceptier, a technology consulting company working out of [Co][Lab]. Ceptier partners with startups and growth-stage businesses to offer customized computer solutions. The business received a Business Development Grant and will receive a Business Opening Grant at a future ribbon-cutting event.

Offering new and gently used fashion, Restyle at Bella, a women’s boutique and consignment shop, is opening for business at 116 W Main. This is a second store for owner, Carmen Kirby, as she also owns Bella Mia Boutique in Champaign.

Karma Trade, a thrift and consignment business that repurposes fashion, has outgrown space at [Co][Lab] and expanded into larger space in the Analog Wine Library where products from local vendors will also be curated.

The Official Kutz barbershop at 1808 Philo Road opened at the beginning of the pandemic adding a new business to the Philo Road Business District. Official Kutz received a Business Development Grant and will receive a Business Opening Grant at their ribbon cutting.

Development

Think Urbana

Since 2016, 68 projects, containing a total of 294 units have applied to receive Think Urbana incentives.

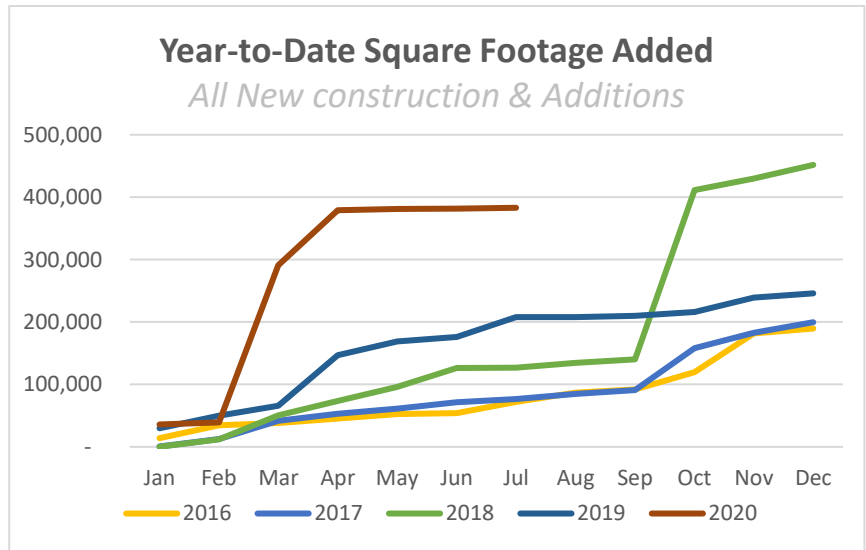


Total Square Feet Added Year-to-Date All Project Types

A total of 381,622 square feet was added in Urbana from January through July 2020 showing a high over the previous five years primarily on account of permits pulled for the Gather and 200 Vine developments.

The City of Urbana collects data on square feet added through issued building permits for both additions and new construction

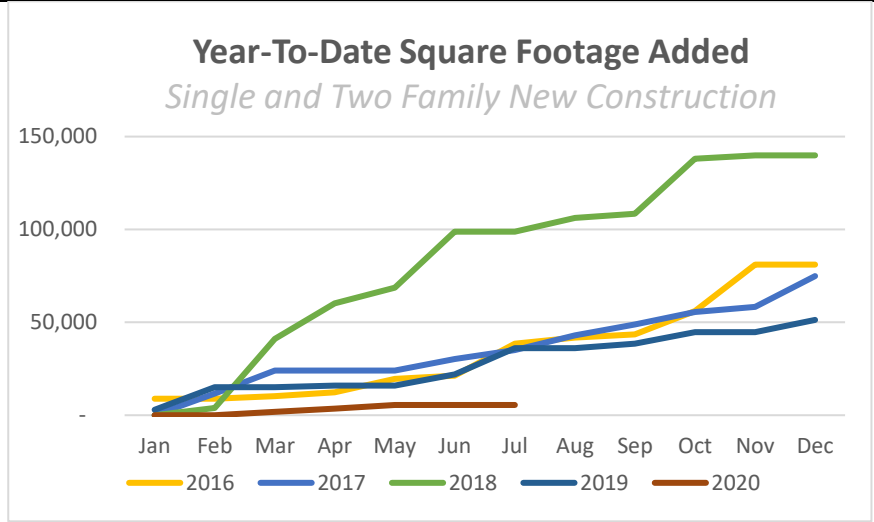
Source: Urbana Permit Data



Single-Family and Duplex Residential Square Feet Added

Through July 2020, a total of 5,510 square feet was added for new construction of one and two family homes.

Source: Urbana Permit Data



Source: Urbana Permit Data

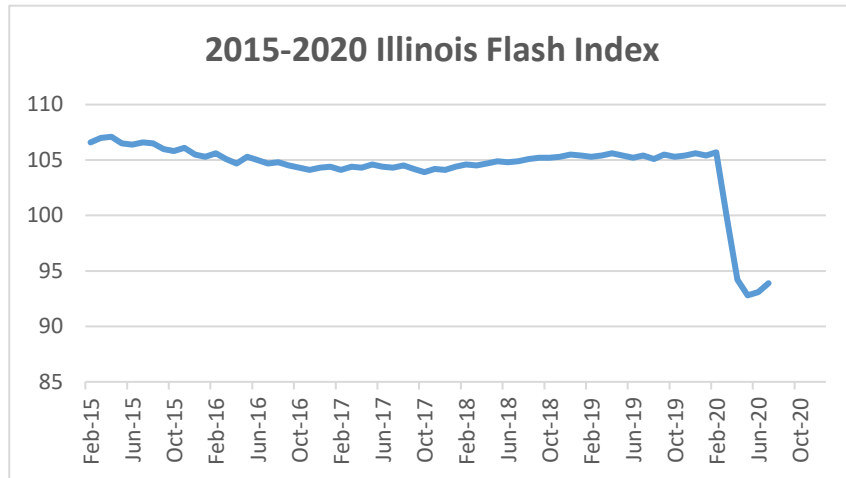
Research & Analysis

Flash Index

The Flash Index for May 2020 hit 92.8, the lowest it's been since August 2010 before rising in June and July slightly to reach 93.9

The U of I Flash Index provides a quick look at the performance of the Illinois economy. A number over 100 indicates the economy is expanding, while a number under 100 indicates contraction.

Source: U of I Flash Index



Source: U of I Flash Index

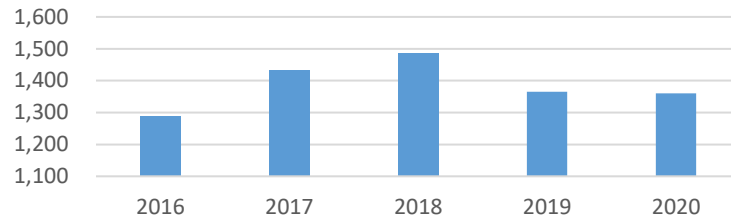
Home Sales

Total home sales in Champaign County in March were 223, April 260, May 234 and in June 379. CCAR reports that although 2020 home sales are slightly down by .36%, June 2020 residential sales show a 10.17% increase over June 2019. The average home sale price increased by 6.16% and June 2020 reports show 312 pending contracts versus 198 in June 2019, resulting in a 57% sales volume increase.

The Champaign County Association of REALTORS provides monthly data on Champaign County home sales.

Source: CCAR Newsletter

Year-to-date Champaign County Home Sales as of June 2020



Source: CCAR Newsletter

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