



# 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:** August 12, 2013

**SUBJECT:** **Economic Development Activities Report for July 2013**

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## **Projects and Events**

### **Downtown Urbana**

- The UBA held a Ribbon Cutting on July 31<sup>st</sup> for the new Rebecca Bobell State Farm Agency in Millhouse Plaza at 408 N Race Street, Suite A. To see more Ribbon Cuttings, visit this link: <http://urbanaillinois.us/new-businesses>
- Renovation is complete at 206 West Main Street. Work continues on the restaurant and the upper-story office at 208 and 210 West Main Street, respectively. [co][lab], the new co-working space in 206, held a soft opening on July 25<sup>th</sup>. A formal opening and celebration is expected to occur in September. Five creative industry tenants have signed leases for this new space and will receive Business Grant funding through Urbana's ED Incentive Program.
- Since April, four new Downtown Urbana business startups have fundraised over \$18,000 online:
  - The Butcher – 119 W Main St - \$6,911 raised  
<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/butcher-sausages-charcuterie>
  - Pizza M (will locate in Cafeteria & Co.) – 208 W Main St - \$6,375 raised  
<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/pizza-m>
  - Flying Machine Coffee (will locate in Cafeteria & Co.) – 208 W Main St - \$2,786 raised  
<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/flying-machine-coffee>
  - Langston Allston's Mural in Alley Behind Cafeteria & Co – 208 W Main St - \$2,717 raised  
<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1109314275/downtown-mural-project-2013>
- Two of these startup businesses, The Butcher, going into the old Das Café space at 119 West Main Street, and Flying Machine Coffee, going into Cafeteria & Co. at 206 West Main Street, were each approved for a \$2,000 Business Development Grant.
- Work continues for the new A-Plus VIP Lounge, a new bar and dance club that will open in the former V Picasso space this fall.
- Sitara Indian Restaurant is planning to open in September at 114 South Race Street (the former location of Black Rock Pizza / Red Star Liquor).
- Black Rock Pizza is expected to reopen under new ownership at the former 88 Broadway location in Lincoln Square. Fluid Events is moving to a new location in West Champaign.

## **Philo Road**

- The new Rulers grocery store at the South Gate Shopping Mall is open.
- Huaraches Moroleon expanded its seating area at 805 South Philo Road.
- Rover Cellular, a prepaid cellular phone store at 1809 South Philo Road, Suite B, has closed.

## **Cunningham Avenue**

- The UBA held a Ribbon Cutting on July 26th for El Oasis, a new Mexican Ice Cream and Snack Shop at 510 N Cunningham in the Commerce Center behind Walgreens. El Oasis also received a \$1,000 Opening Grant through the Urbana ED Incentive Program.
- Plans have been submitted for a new Wendy's restaurant at the Gateway Shoppes at Five Points.
- The Mervis Recycling facility is nearing completion.

## **University-Medical**

- Miko's at 407 W University is closed. The space is now represented by Coldwell Banker and is for sale and for lease.
- Plan review is complete for Campus Circle on University Avenue. A permit will be issued as soon as the property sale is complete.
- Renovation for Pawn King / Bass Pro Shop is nearing completion.

## **East Urbana**

- A permit has been issued for the new Birkeys Farm Store on High Cross Road.

## **Urbana Building Permits**

- 7 total building permits issued in July.
- 1 new Commercial Building.

## **Marketing Activities**

- Urbana marketing information and Urbana Business Association app information were distributed to Urbana hotels and Alice Campbell Alumni Center. In addition, twelve visitor packets were mailed leads resulting from the City's advertisement in the Illinois Travel Guide.
- Staff wrote and promoted stories about multiple new Urbana businesses including Bouffant Salon, El Oasis, Pizza M, Flying Machine Coffee, and the Butcher.
- Staff hosted a City of Urbana table at centralized registration for Urbana School District #116 on 7/30, 7/31 and 8/1.
- City marketing information was packaged for distribution to approximately 2,000 incoming UIUC international students and approximately 80 new resident hall assistants on campus.
- In July, City staff tabled and distributed literature at five Neighborhood Nights concerts organized by the Urbana Park District.

## **Urbana's Market at the Square**

- The third Sprouts at the Market event this season was held on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The title of the event was, "Eat Your Colors". The event was a success with an estimated 75 children having participated.
- The second meeting of the Market at the Square Advisory Board was held in July. The Board approved a motion to charge staff with surveying Market patrons in order to estimate the Market's economic impact on the community. The first survey, or pilot, was conducted on July 20th with over 320 patron responses. Results are currently being tabulated and will be shared once analyzed.
- Attendance for July Markets: July 6 - 5,682; July 13 - 5,565; July 20 - 4,761; July 27 - 5,838

## **Arts Related Activities**

- Public Arts Coordinator Christina McClelland has accepted a new position as the Public Arts Program Coordinator with the City and County of Denver, CO beginning at the end of August. She will be missed.
- Twenty-nine submissions for the 2013-14 Murals on Glass Call for Artists were received from local artists. A selection panel has reviewed the submissions and will make recommendations for the Public Arts Commission to consider at their August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting. Sites for the 2013-14 Murals will be the south tower of the Urbana Parking Deck, the Urbana Business Association windows, and some windows of the Urbana Civic Center.
- The third Art at the Market workshop, CD Weaving with Kathryn Fitzgerald and music by The Turinos, was held on July 20<sup>th</sup> and attended by 168 people. The next Art at the Market will take place on August 17<sup>th</sup> and will feature a Letterpress workshop from 8 AM to noon with Steve Kostell, and a performance by Ryan Groff of Elsinore from 9:30 – 11:30 AM.
- From the Surface, an exhibition featuring dimensional handmade paper works by Steve Kostell, is the latest Artist of the Corridor exhibition. On display in the City building lobby through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the works feature paper cast from the built environment, like sidewalks.
- The Public Arts Coordinator was asked to be a reviewer for grant applications to the Illinois Arts Council in the category of Visual Arts Program Grants. This required reviewing 55 grant applications from throughout the state of Illinois and attending a review panel in Chicago on July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Public Arts Coordinator was invited by the Illinois Arts Council and Arts Alliance Illinois to attend a retreat and workshop for Local Arts Agencies in Chicago on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Other Activities**

- On July 16, Chinese Consul General Zhao Weiping visited the City of Urbana, Illinois and met with Mayor Prussing and several city council members. Accompanied by Mayor Prussing, Consul General Zhao also had a brief tour of Downtown Urbana and several new businesses.

