



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: February 3, 2014

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

Business and Development Activity

2013 Year in Review

- In 2013, 38 businesses opened or expanded in Urbana. A complete list and map are included below.
- In 2013, 17 businesses received incentives under the new standard TIF programs totaling \$73,481. A complete list of businesses that received assistance is included at the end of this report.

Downtown Urbana

- [co][lab] at 206 West Main Street is one of three businesses to have been nominated for the Entrepreneurial Excellence Social Venture Award. The winner will be announced at the 2014 Innovation Celebration on February 26th from 5 to 8 pm at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) located at 1205 West Clark Street in Urbana.
- Transitions held a Ribbon Cutting on January 10th to celebrate their expansion in Lincoln Square Mall.
- A-Plus VIP Lounge to have a soft opening in the coming days. The grand opening will be held on Valentine's Day, 2/14 –the building address is also 214 West Main.
- Di Yu, one of the partners in A Plus VIP Lounge, has purchased the building at 214 West Main Street and is looking into options for redeveloping and opening a new business on the second floor.
- Priceless Books is moving to 112 West Main Street, the former Heartland Gallery space.
- Heel to Toe intends to purchase and expand into Priceless Book's old space at 108 West Main Street.
- Dancing Dog Eatery & Juicery, a new vegan restaurant and juice bar, is planning to construct a commercial kitchen at 126 West Main Street, the former Primelight Studio space.
- County Plaza's new 30+ employee social service tenant will open its doors in mid-February.
- Champaign Cycle will open its first Urbana location at 110 S Race Street, the space behind Bohemia. "Champaign Cycle in Urbana" will have a soft opening in a few weeks and a grand opening in March.
- Two creative industry tenants have signed leases for 210 W Main Street, the offices above Cafeteria and Company. A formal announcement is expected in the coming weeks.
- Matt Cho has purchased 204 West Main Street. Staff has begun negotiations with the new owner on how to stabilize this distressed property and turn it into an asset for Downtown Urbana.
- Bohemia was awarded a \$2,000 Business Development Grant upon completing business counseling.
- Renovations continue for a new restaurant at 202 North Race Street in the Stratford Apartments.

Philo Road

- Work is underway for remodeling of the former Picadilly at 1508 E Colorado Avenue where Rainbow Restoration, a professional cleaning and restoration business, plans to open.
- The Curves at 1809 South Philo Road will be closing at the end of February.

Cunningham Avenue

- McAllister Audio, a musical instrument repair service, opened at 1007 N Cunningham Avenue.
- Black Gold Trading Post, new jewelry and gold store, is opening at 1502 N Cunningham Avenue in Northgate Plaza Suite F, the space Armored Gopher Games originally occupied.
- Work is underway for interior remodeling at 1104 N Cunningham Avenue where property owner Martin Fuentes, also proprietor of Toro Loco, is planning to open a new restaurant concept.
- Progress is being made toward addressing the Hanford Inn property at 2408 North Cunningham Avenue. Community Development and Legal staff are holding regular meetings to develop a strategy and hope to begin implementation in the coming weeks.

University-Medical

- A building permit has been issued for a new Wendy's restaurant at Gateway Shoppes. Construction is expected to begin after the weather improves.
- Dear 72, a clothing store moving into Gregory Place East, is expected to open in February.
- Renovation for KoFusion at Gregory Place West is nearing completion and will have a soft opening in February.
- Work is underway for Café Bene, Korea's largest coffee franchise, at Gregory Place East. It is expected to open in March.

East Urbana

- Building construction is nearing completion at the new Birkeys Farm Store on High Cross Road.

Marketing and Events Activity

- The menus of both the Businesses and Residents sections of the City's website have been reorganized to make pages easier to find.
- 40 visitor packets were mailed based on leads from the City's Illinois Travel Guide advertisement.
- City promotional materials were provided at the Spring 2014 Campus Resource Expo, located inside the Illini Union on January 23rd.
- The City's Facebook page is approaching 500 likes! Visit facebook.com/CityOfUrbana
- The City's Twitter feed has over 3,000 followers! Visit twitter.com/CityOfUrbana

Urbana's Market at the Square

- Urbana's Market Director was elected to the board of the Illinois Farmers Market Association.
- The Market Director presented at the Illinois Specialty Growers Conference in Springfield, IL. Presentation was titled, "Put a Bird on It: Using weekly promotions to boost market attendance."
- The 2013 Annual Report for Urbana's Market at the Square is complete.
- A new Vendor Handbook and Community Group Handbook has been created. The handbook and vendor applications are available online at urbanaininois.us/Application
- The Market is working with the Illinois Stewardship Alliance on three programs: "Buy Fresh, Buy Local", "Local Flavors", and a chef-farmer mixer. More details to come.

Arts Related Activities

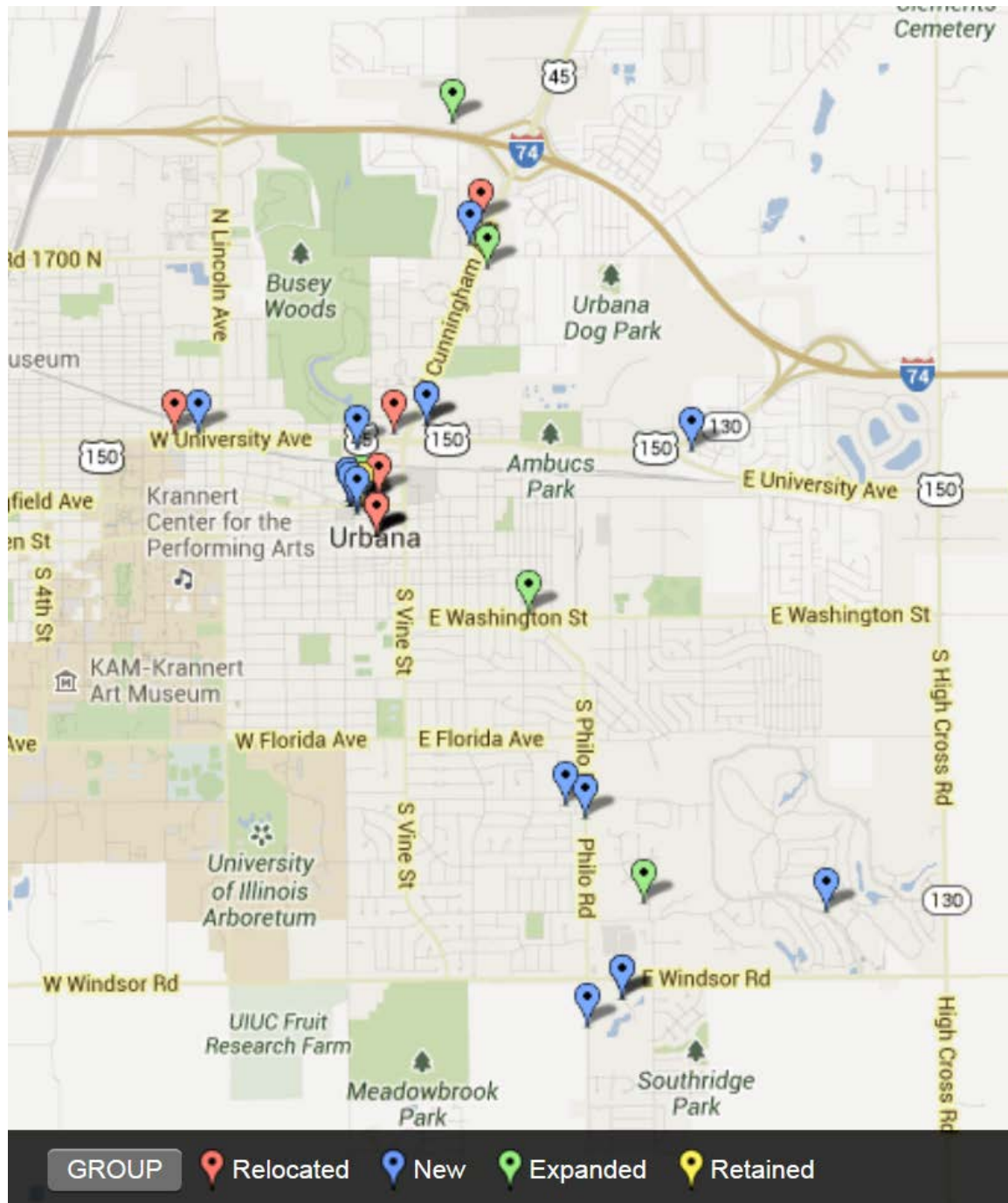
- On January 24th, an event was at King School involving student performances celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the installation of the new sculpture at King Park. The celebration was funded in part by an Arts in the Schools grant from the Urbana Public Arts program.
- The City received 40 grant applications for the 2014 Arts Grants cycle.
- A new Public Art Coordinator is expected to come on board in early February.

Other Activities

- Daley Schwengel joined ED staff in January as an unpaid intern assisting on various City marketing projects and preparing for Market at the Square. Daley is a senior in Marketing at Illinois State University and was hired as a Market Staff during the 2013 season.
- ED staff is also currently seeking an unpaid intern to assist in the City's business and development efforts through the spring semester.

Business Openings and Expansions in 2013

In 2013, 38 businesses opened, expanded or relocated to Urbana. Click on the map below to load an interactive web-map of the new Urbana businesses. As a reminder, you can also view Ribbon Cutting announcements on the City's webpage [here](#).



NAME	ADDRESS	GROUP
Advantage Recycling	3008 N Cunningham Ave	New
Alumni Tap	300 S Broadway Ave	New
Armored Gopher Games	1508 N Cunningham Ave	Expanded
Attie's Bar and Grill	2600 South Stone Creek Blvd	New
Bent Bean	300 S Broadway Ave	New
Black Rock Pizza Company	300 S Broadway Ave	Relocated
blueprint	2704 S Boulder Dr	New
Bohemia	135 W Main St	New
Bouffant Salon	2860 South Philo Rd	New
Casey's General Store	2100 E University Ave	New
Catedral Consulting	206 W Main Street	New
Cazuela de Mariscos	510 N Cunningham Ave	New
Common Ground Food Co-Op	300 S Broadway Ave	Expanded
Concept College of Cosmetology	202 E. University Ave	Relocated
Creative Thermal	2209 North Willow Road	Expanded
Design Draw Build	206 W Main Street	Relocated
Dollar Tree	1303 E Colorado Ave	New
Dr. G's Brain Works	300 S Broadway Ave	New
Eclectic	123 W Main St	Retained
El Oasis	510 N Cunningham Ave	New
Emeritus at Canterbury Ridge	1706 E Amber Ln	Expanded
Flying Machine Coffee	208 W Main St	New
HandsOn	206 W Main St	New
Huaraches Moroleon	805 Philo Rd	Expanded
KCM Auto Care	1709 N Cunningham Ave	Relocated
Langacker Law	102 E Main St	Relocated
Mas Amigos	1106 W University Ave	Relocated
Nick Smith State Farm Agency	2704 Boulder Dr	New
NORDEN	206 W Main St	New
Pawn King	1004 W University Ave	New
Pixo	121 W Goose Alley	Expanded
Pizza-M	208 W Main St	New
Rebecca Bobell State Farm Agency	408 N Race St	New
Ruler Foods	2010 Philo Rd	New
Sitara Indian Restaurant & Lounge	114 S Race St	New
The Urbana Butcher Shop	119 W Main St	New
Toro Loco	1601 N Cunningham	New
Urbana Land Arts	206 W Main St	New

TIF Incentive Programs in 2013

Due to funding constraints and changing economic conditions, the City revised its economic development incentive programs to better implement the goals of the TIF districts and Urbana's relevant planning documents. The revised programs took effect in January 2013. Under the new incentive program, the City was able to offer incentives to 17 businesses, totaling \$73,481. The following is a break-down of grant funding for businesses in 2013:

Business Development Grants

Date	Name	Address
8/30/2013	Armored Gopher Games	1508 N Cunningham Ave
9/13/2013	Black Rock Pizza Company	142 Lincoln Square
8/30/2013	Catedral Consulting	206 W Main Street
8/30/2013	Dr. G's Brain Works	114 Lincoln Square
3/8/2013	Eclectic	123 W Main St
7/12/2013	El Oasis	510 N Cunningham Ave
8/9/2013	Flying Machine Coffee	208 W Main St
8/16/2013	HandsOn	206 W Main St
3/14/2013	Langacker Law	102 E Main St
4/12/2013	NORDEN	206 W Main St
6/7/2013	Pizza-M	208 W Main St
9/12/2013	Sitara Indian Restaurant & Lounge	114 S Race St
7/12/2013	The Urbana Butcher Shop	119 W Main St
5/24/2013	Urbana Land Arts	206 W Main St

Business Opening Grants

Date	Name	Address
9/20/2013	Armored Gopher Games	1508 N Cunningham Ave
9/27/2013	Black Rock Pizza Company	142 Lincoln Square
12/6/2013	Bohemia	135 W Main St
10/11/2013	Catedral Consulting	206 W Main Street
11/8/2013	Dr. G's Brain Works	114 Lincoln Square
8/9/2013	El Oasis	510 N Cunningham Ave
10/11/2013	Flying Machine Coffee	208 W Main St
10/11/2013	HandsOn	206 W Main St
10/11/2013	NORDEN	206 W Main St
10/11/2013	Pizza-M	208 W Main St
11/1/2013	Sitara Indian Restaurant & Lounge	114 S Race St
11/8/2013	The Urbana Butcher Shop	119 W Main St
10/11/2013	Urbana Land Arts	206 W Main St

TIF Redevelopment Incentive Program Grants

Date	Name	Address
1/8/2013	Common Ground Co-Op	300 S Broadway
9/20/2013	County Plaza	102 E Main St