



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: November 3rd, 2014

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

Business and Development Activity

Downtown Urbana

- Dancing Dog Eatery & Juicery at 126 W Main is now open. A ribbon cutting was held on October 20th. Dancing Dog was also awarded a \$1,000 Business Opening Grant.
- Creative Health, a new tenant in [co][lab], was awarded a \$2,000 Business Development Grant and a \$1,000 Business Opening Grant. The business, which designs nutrition and food labeling and marketing materials with a focus on health, held a Ribbon Cutting on October 15th.
- An Enterprise Zone Sales Tax Exemption Certificate was issued for the remodel of the second floor of 115 W Main Street to accommodate the expansion of Applied Pavement Technology's corporate headquarters. Their staff is expected to grow from 44 employees to 60 employees over two years.
- Lord & Lacy BBQ was awarded a \$2,000 Business Development Grant. The restaurant, located at 115 W Main, is expected to open before the end of the year.
- Demolition work continues at 204 W Main for the creation of an outdoor beer garden and market.
- Work continues 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.
- Masijta Grill was awarded a \$25,000 Redevelopment Incentive Program grant for the installation of a commercial kitchen and restaurant space at the former Morning Cup space at 202 N Race Street.
- Curbanas will be removed for the season beginning Monday, November 3. The pilot program will be evaluated and the results will be presented to Council as part of planning for their second season.

University-Medical

- A building permit and an Enterprise Zone Sales Tax Exemption Certificate were issued for the construction of a new building Gateway Shoppes at 110 E University Avenue. Ivan Richardson will complete the build-out of the western half of the center's retail strip.
- Carter's Furniture was awarded a \$2,000 Business Development Grant for the completion of their expansion at their Urbana location at 410 N. Vine Street after consolidating their Champaign location.
- Foundation work for the Campus Circle apartment complex on University Avenue continues.

Philo Road

- Renovation continues for a 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 is in the process of rebranding to a Wyndham Garden Inn.
- Work is underway 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 continues on the new catering kitchen for Hendrick House at 801 W Killarney St.

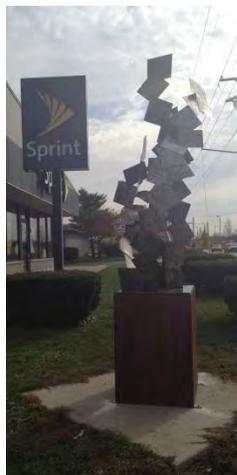
Marketing and Events Activity

- Staff represented the City of Urbana at the Illini Media Fall Housing Fair at the University of Illinois Student Union on October 9th. We distributed information about living in Urbana and various City programs and services.
- The November edition of “It’s All About U” will be made available beginning November 3rd.
- Staff attended additional meetings of the IHSA boys state basketball bid committee. This committee is meeting to prepare a bid to have the state IHSA basketball tournament return to the State Farm Center and Urbana-Champaign.

Urbana’s Market at the Square

- The Market Director continued to assist the Illinois Stewardship Alliance in promoting a series of dining events in Urbana-Champaign at restaurants that will feature locally-produced items on their menu. Learn more at www.ilstewards.org
 - Patron attendance at the Market has been consistent in September: October 4: 1,895; October 11: 3,575; October 18: 1,973; October 25: 3,522.
- On October 17th, the Market Director hosted the Illinois Farmers Market Association Board meeting at the farm of Urbana’s Market at the Square vendor Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery.
- Staff hosted two free programs during the month of September: Sprouts at the Market on October 18th (with guest presenter Common Ground Food Co-op), and a no-carve pumpkin decorating event with the Urbana Business Association on October 25th.

Public Arts Program



- The slate of temporary sculpture installations in Urbana for 2014-16 is almost finished. Maelstrom II (Craig Snyder from Plymouth, MN) was installed last week at the corner of Philo and Florida Avenues in front of the Sprint store (above at center). This week, Stranger Reduction Zone by Timothy Flood (Denver, CO) will be installed to the left of the parking lot entrance to the Urbana Free Library. Next Wednesday, November 5- Twistah Tous by Bennett Wine (West Kill, NY) will be installed in the small park across from Huarches at the intersection of Philo and Washington (above at left).

- ArtNow!- the Public Arts Program one-hour show in UPTV will be turning 50 with the latest episode in November. Celebrate 50 episodes over 4 years looking at the creativity of the Champaign-Urbana community.
- Urbana artist Carol Diss Farnum will be the next Artist of the Corridor with her soft watercolor abstractions from November 4, 2014- February 1, 2015. (above at right)
- Staff is in the process of hiring a Public Arts Intern to start in early November.
- The Public Arts Commission approved a draft agreement between the City of Urbana and the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois to maximize the fundraising potential of the City for the Public Arts Program.

Other Updates

- Public Arts Coordinator Lisa Hatchadoorian has accepted a new position as the Executive Director of the Fort Collins Museum of Art in Colorado. A going away event to celebrate Lisa's work at Urbana will be held at Crane Alley on Friday, November 7th from 4-5:45pm at the 2nd floor of Crane Alley.
- The City of Urbana's November Business & Development Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 18th from Noon to 1:30pm at the Urbana Civic Center. Staff will present "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 will be shared along with an update on the efforts and progress toward establishing a new Enterprise Zone.
- Staff continues working in conjunction with Campaign County and several other taxing partners toward the establishment of a new Urbana Enterprise Zone with robust incentives:
 - Staff met with Champaign County, Cunningham Township, Park District, School District and Parkland College in November to discuss participation in the new Enterprise Zone.
 - Parkland College and CUMTD Boards both voted in favor of participating in property tax abatements in the proposed Urbana Enterprise Zone.
 - The County Board, Park District, and School District are slated to vote on whether to participate in the new Urbana Enterprise in November.
 - A public information session and public hearing is scheduled for 12:00 pm on Thursday, November 6th in the Lewis Auditorium at the Urbana Free Library.

Memorandum



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

Membership Growth

The 2014 membership year has seen the addition of 43 new member businesses, including six new members in the month of October. This brings our membership count to 187 member businesses.

Staffing

The Marketing Coordinator, Daley Schwengel gave notice of her resignation and her last day worked was Friday, October 10. She was offered a position providing a shorter commute, higher pay, and benefits. It has been decided to leave this position vacant at this time.

Holiday Market

Planning continues to move forward with the 2014 Holiday Market with 77 vendors currently signed up to participate compared to 65 vendors signed up at this time in 2013. Sixteen of the participating vendors are new to the Holiday Market. Three sponsorships have been secured. Promotion of this event has begun with radio ads running on Q96, ESPN, Country US 105.9, WHMS, WKIO, WDWS, and Hot 105.5. A segment on WCIA's *ciLiving* aired on October 23 promoting the upcoming season and availability of a year-round market. Posters have been distributed around the community and online ads are running on *SmilePolitely.com*. Print ads have run in the *Women in Business* edition of the *News-Gazette* and the homecoming edition of *Buzz Magazine*. This year's Holiday Market will take place over the course of seven Saturdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm beginning November 8 through December 20 inside Lincoln Square. This is the 12th year of the Holiday Market.

Other Sponsorships

The UBA worked with Urbana High School in the planning and coordination of the *2nd Annual Sundaes 5K Run/Walk* held on Sunday, October 5; assisted in the promotion of the *Urbana Homecoming Celebration* held on Friday, October 3; and with the American Cancer Society in the promotion of their *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Champaign/Urbana 5K Walk* on Saturday, October 18. We are also working to assist in the promotion of the *CU Folk & Roots Festival* scheduled for November 7-8.

Downtown Working Group

Progress has been made in the planning of the first pilot working group meeting. A timeline has been drafted and a facilitator contacted. Initial plans are to send out communications to the downtown businesses in November, a follow-up communication in December, with the first meeting held in January. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.