



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: October 7, 2013

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

Business and Development Activity

Downtown Urbana

- Sitara Indian Restaurant opened on September 3rd at 114 South Race Street. They will have a UBA Ribbon Cutting in October. Sitara completed the Business Development Grant program and received a \$2,000 grant. They are also eligible for a \$1,000 Opening Grant.
- The new Black Rock Pizza at 88 Broadway is now open. A Ribbon Cutting was held on September 19th. Black Rock received both Business Development and Business Opening grants totaling \$3,000.
- Flying Machine Coffee and Pizza M have both held soft openings at Cafeteria & Company at 208 W Main Street. Each restaurant vendor received a \$2,000 grant for completing the Business Development program and both are also eligible for \$1,000 Opening Grants.
- CoLab will hold a UBA ribbon cutting at 206 West Main Street on Friday, October 11th at 5:30 pm. The ribbon cutting will be in honor of Urbana Land Arts, NORDEN, Cathedral Consulting and HandsOn, each of whom will also receive a \$1,000 Business Opening Grant. All of the aforementioned businesses also completed the Business Development program. In addition, CoLab has two new month-to-month tenants: Design Draw Build LLC and Lady Kate Productions.
- County Plaza completed repairs and waterproofing of their parking deck. The Redevelopment Incentive Program reimbursed County Plaza approximately \$15,000 of the \$143,000 project cost.
- Dr. G's Brain Works: The Brain Fitness Store will open in 114 Lincoln Square. The new retail store will also offer neuropsychological services for all ages both at the store and online. Dr. G's has been awarded a \$2,000 Business Development Grant and renovation of the space is currently in progress.
- Remodeling work continues for: The Butcher at 119 West Main Street, A-Plus VIP Lounge at 214 West Main Street, and the final phase of the Cake Design Development agreement at 210 W Main Street. All are expected to be completed this fall.

Philo Road

- Bouffant Salon held a Ribbon Cutting for their new business at the Pines at Stone Creek Commons on Monday, September 23rd.
- A permit has been issued for renovations for a new Dollar Tree at 1303 Colorado, the former True Value location.
- ED staff participated in a meeting with South Philo Road business owners to discuss ways the City can assist in marketing and promoting upcoming events in that area of Urbana.

Cunningham Avenue

- Advantage Recycling held their Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Celebration on Saturday, September 21st.
- Armored Gopher Games held a Grand Reopening Celebration and a UBA Ribbon Cutting on September 14th at their new, expanded location at 1508 N Cunningham Ave, Suite A. Armored Gopher had already completed the Business Development program and was awarded a \$1,000 Business Opening Grant at the ribbon cutting.
- The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has approved the expansion of the Urbana Enterprise Zone to include properties owned by Frasca and Soccer Planet. Both businesses are now eligible to take advantage of sales tax exemptions on building materials for future projects at these sites.

University-Medical

- Preliminary site plans have been submitted for a new retail outlot building at the Five Points Commerce Center.
- Plans are under review for a new Wendy's restaurant at the Gateway Shoppes at Five Points.
- Renovation for Pawn King / Bass Pro Shop is nearly complete.

East Urbana

- Building construction is underway for the new Birkeys Farm Store on High Cross Road.

Marketing and Events Activity

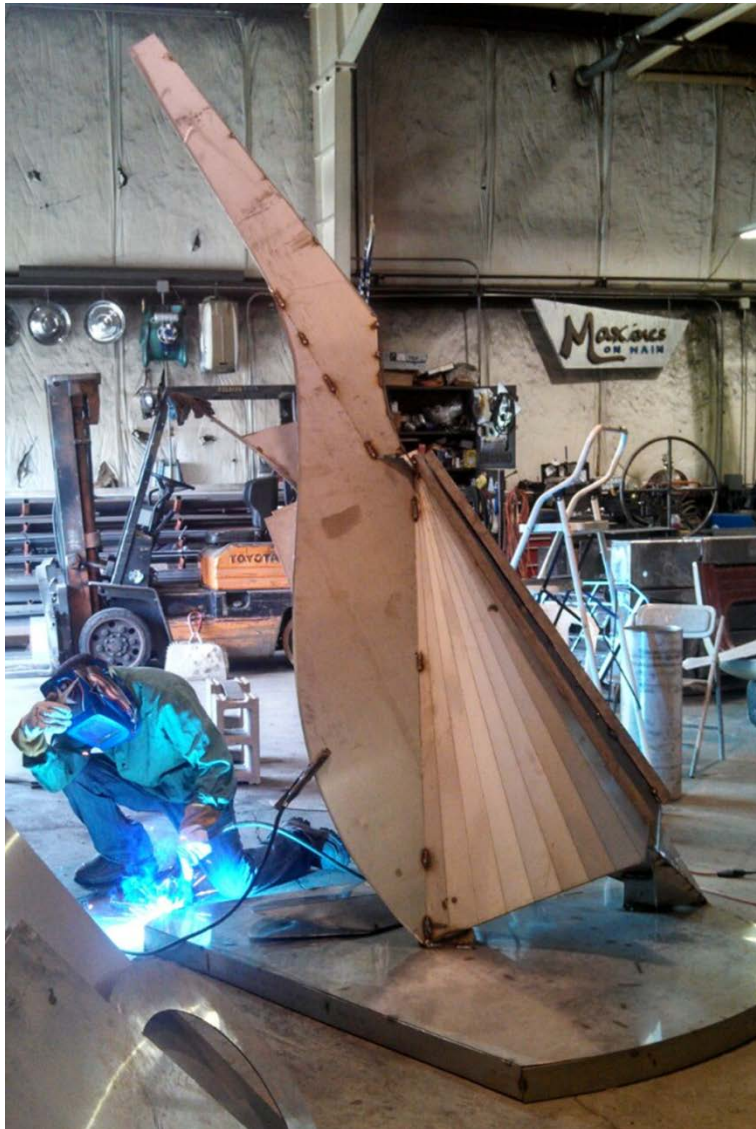
- The Pygmalion music festival took place in Urbana and Champaign on September 26-28. An outdoor concert featuring a number of musical acts took place in the Civic Center parking lot the evening of the 27th. The event coordinator noted the festival was a great success. ED staff prepared brochures and promotional wristbands to include in the tote bags given to five-hundred Pygmalion Music Festival ticket holders.
- Crane Alley will host the International Beer Tasting and Food Truck Showcase in Downtown Urbana on Saturday, October 5th.
- Ten visitor packets were mailed out due to leads from the City's advertisement in the Illinois Travel Guide.
- The Marketing Coordinator met with two Urbana hotel managers to discuss visitor-targeted marketing efforts and distributed new Urbana visitor marketing materials to the hotels.
- Four-hundred "In Lincoln's Shadow" brochures were mailed to Illinois Tourist Information Centers.

Urbana's Market at the Square

- Natalie Kenny-Marquez appeared on WCIA's program "ciLiving" with Mac Condill of The Great Pumpkin Patch to promote the September 7th Sprouts at the Market event.
- The fifth Sprouts at the Market event of the season was held on September 7. The title of the event was, "From Dirt to Dessert...And Beyond". The event was presented by guest educators from the Great Pumpkin Patch from Arthur, Illinois. Over 75 children participated in the event.
- Planning has begun for the 2014 Market season, which will mark the 35th year of the Market in Urbana.
- Market Director Natalie Kenny-Marquez participated in the "In My Backyard" WILL radio series with former Market Director Lisa Brats. The topic of the segment was Sprouts at the Market.
- Estimated attendance for May Markets: 9/7: 4,320; 9/14: 5,927; 9/21: 5,735; 9/28: 4,587

Arts Related Activities

- The fifth and final Performance/Art at the Market occurred on September 28. Approximately 150 people participated.
- The process is being finalized for the 2014 cycle of the Urbana Arts Grants program. Applications should be made available sometime in October.
- Advertising for the Public Arts Coordinator position continues; the job posting will close on October 18th. Public Arts Intern Juli Heuel is assisting during the transition.
- Artist Preston Jackson continues to fabricate the sculpture to be installed in King Park later in 2013 (as seen below).



Other Activities

- A Ribbon Cutting was held for the Adams Lanore Fairlawn Multi-Use Path. The celebration took place on Saturday, September 14th at 3 p.m. at the intersections of Fairlawn Drive and Adams Street.
- The City of Urbana will host a 180th Birthday Celebration in the ballroom of the Urbana Landmark Hotel on Saturday, October 5th from 11am to Noon.
- ED Staff met with business owners on-site at multiple Urbana businesses in the month of September including: Dart, Emulsicoat, Langacker Law, Heartland Gallery, Carter's Furniture, County Market and Supervalu as well as several other industrial businesses at the North Lincoln Industry Roundtable.