



# 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:** July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

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

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### **Business and Development Activity**

#### **Downtown Urbana**

- Efficient Living: Illinois Public Housing Authority Energy Program will move its offices into County Plaza in July. Efficient Living is a program within the Building Research Council within the School of Architecture at the College of Fine and Applied Arts that works with Housing Authorities statewide to help them improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.
- The Curbana in front of Crane Alley is complete and open for use. The Curbana in front of Pizza M will be open within a week.
- Colorable, a new advertising agency located in [co][lab] at 206 W Main Street held a Ribbon Cutting on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Colorable received a \$1,000 Business Opening Grant.
- Error Records and Farm League Skate Shop will hold a joint Ribbon Cutting on July 11<sup>th</sup> at noon at 123 West Main Street. Both will receive a \$1,000 Business Opening Grant.
  - Error Records will open a retail record store and a small entertainment venue.
  - Farm League Skate Shop will open a retail skateboarding shop. Farm League also received a \$2,000 Business Development Grant in June.
- The Urbana Butcher Shop has closed. Multiple tenants have expressed interest in use of the space.
- Oriental World, an import retail store, plans to open in Lincoln Square in July.
- Cake Design Development has received a permit to begin the demolition for the creation of the proposed outdoor market at 204 West Main Street.
- Work is nearing completion at Dancing Dog Eatery & Juicery at 126 W Main, which plans to open as a vegan restaurant in July.
- Wind Water and Light has closed its retail art gallery in Lincoln Square Mall. The owners will continue to have a presence at the Market at the Square and plan to be more active in regional and national art festivals.
- Brownfield Sports is moving its retail sports apparel store to the corner of North Lincoln and University Avenues. The business will move into the former English Hedgerow space at 406 N Lincoln Avenue.
- Transitions received a \$3,963 Redevelopment Incentive for the remodeling and expansion of their resale store in Lincoln Square which opened in January of 2014.
- Norm & Carolyn Baxley received a \$27,481 Redevelopment Incentive for the remodeling of the Halberstadt House at 104 N Central Avenue. This incentive had been approved under the pre-2013 redevelopment incentive program and was encumbered until complete documentation was submitted for the reimbursement.

- The Living Yoga Studio is relocating to First Street in Champaign. Both Living Yoga Studio and Green Yoga Spa were displaced from their locations at 115 West Main Street to make room for an expansion of Applied Pavement Technology's corporate offices. Green Yoga Spa plans to become a home-based business in the West Urbana neighborhood near Downtown Urbana.
- Interviews were held for the Request for Qualifications for commercial realty services to market the 200 Block of South Vine Street property. In July, staff will select a broker to represent the site, negotiate an agreement for their services, and seek approvals to move forward.

### **University-Medical**

- Construction is nearing completion for the new Wendy's at the Five Points Commerce Center.
- A demolition permit has been issued to begin work for the Campus Circle apartment complex on University Avenue.

### **Cunningham Avenue**

- McCallister Audio, a new musical and audio equipment repair center and retailer at 1007 North Cunningham Ave, Suite A, received a \$1,000 Business Development Grant.

### **North Lincoln Avenue**

- CV Lloyd held a Ribbon Cutting on June 4<sup>th</sup> at their new location at the Lincoln Commerce Center on Killarney Avenue. CV Lloyd relocated from their longtime retail location in downtown Champaign. Their new facility focuses on the installation, servicing and rental of large-scale commercial audio visual systems.

### **Philo Road**

- La Fiesta Restaurant at 1717 S Philo Road has closed.
- A new cellular phone store and service center is planning to move into the outlot building at 1813 South Philo Road.

### **Marketing and Events Activity**

- Alongside the Urbana Business Association, the City hosted a booth at the Race Street Bash to promote the new Downtown Guide to Retail Shopping and Restaurants as well as distribute information about City programs and services. The Race Street Bash was organized by the Community Center for the Arts.
- The July edition of "It's All About U" is now available.
- Staff hosted a booth at the Uncork Urbana Wine Festival to promote the new Downtown Guide to Retail Shopping and Restaurants as well as distribute information about City programs and services.

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

- The Market Director continued to work with 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](http://www.ilstewards.org)
- The Farmers Market co-sponsored an outdoor film showing in Downtown Urbana along with [co][lab] and Common Ground Food Co-op as part of an ongoing #UrbanaLove outdoor film series. The film "Growing Cities" was projected onto a large box truck in the Busey Bank parking lot in downtown Urbana. The film was "Growing Cities".
- Patron attendance at the Market has been very good in May and June, with average attendance levels estimated around 5,500.
- Staff is working with the Central Illinois Chapter of Buy Fresh, Buy Local to have an on-air presence every Monday on ciLiving (WICA News Channel 3 afternoon program) to promote Market vendors, local farmers and area restaurants committed to producing, sourcing, and using local ingredients.

## **Public Arts Program**

- On June 14th the 2nd workshop and performance for the 2014 Art at the Market season was held at Urbana's Market in the Square. The art workshop featured artist Meredith Foster from Urbana Land Arts and an ecoart lab on creating art with Illinois-specific plant materials and dyes. The dance-inspired Klezmer music of Don't Ask was also featured in the performance tent. The attendance for these events was roughly 100 people for the morning.



- From June 11-15th, the Public Art Coordinator attended a national conference in Nashville for Public Art Administrators and Arts Administrators, produced by Americans for the Arts.

## **Other Updates**

- Community Development Director Libby Tyler attended an invite-only Local Leaders Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. along with over 150 elected and appointed leaders. The conference was focused on revitalizing downtowns and was organized by Smart Growth America, a national organization advocating for smart growth practices.
- Economic Development staff held retention visits with nine businesses in June.

# Memorandum



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

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## Membership Growth

The 2014 membership year has seen the addition of 17 new member businesses, including two new members in the month of June.

## Uncork Urbana Wine Festival

The Uncork Urbana Wine Festival was held on Saturday, June 14, with nearly 1,200 people attending and sampling dozens of wines from 11 Illinois wineries and brews from Mahomet's JT Walker's Brewery. Additional activities included live music from five local bands and food pairings courtesy of Common Ground Food Co-op. The UBA had high hopes for this event but the attendance far exceeded our internal goals. The response from the wineries and attendees we talked to was excellent.

The positive results of the festival were also felt by area businesses. Bobby Gomes of Sitara Indian Restaurant and Lounge stated that the festival brought them "many new customers and had a great impact on sales." Milea Hayes, one of the owners of Bohemia, also indicated that the festival had a positive effect on the business and she saw increased foot traffic into the store. This was a common theme among most of the downtown businesses.

This event was sponsored in part by the City of Urbana, Common Ground Food Co-op, Amber Pointe Apartments, Busey Bank, Holiday Inn, and Illini Radio Group.

## Sweetcorn Festival

Sweetcorn planning continues with more than 45 vendors registered to date. Progress has been made on the entertainment line-up with contracts in place for both the Miller Main stage and the One Community Together stage. A third stage has been confirmed and will be placed at the Main St./Springfield Ave. fork. This stage will be coordinated by CU Folk & Roots. Sponsorship levels have exceeded last year with additional in-kind sponsorships forthcoming.

A business meeting was held with downtown businesses on Monday, June 23, 2014, however only one business attended. This effort was made to discuss changes to this year's festival and ensure downtown businesses benefit from the event.

The Motor Muster Car Show will be returning for its 18<sup>th</sup> year and will feature the Ford Mustang, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year in production. Due to the popularity of this model, car show organizers anticipate a 20% increase in vehicle entries. It has been confirmed that the News-Gazette E3 will be doing a feature article on the history of this event leading up to the festival.

## Other Sponsorships

The UBA provided sponsorship to other events during the month of June including the Community Center for the Arts *Race Street Bash* held on Sunday, June 1, and the Atkins Group *Celebrate Summer at the Pines* held on Saturday, June 14. This sponsorship was provided through a combination of cash contributions, marketing efforts, and booth participation.