



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: May 5th, 2014

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

Business and Development Activity

Downtown Urbana

- Champaign Cycle in Urbana held a Ribbon Cutting for their new bike store and repair shop at 110 South Race Street. Champaign Cycle also plans to install colorful bike racks in front of the store.
- Applied Pavement Technology is growing their corporate headquarters located above Crane Alley at 115 West Main Street. The full-service roadway and airport pavement engineering consulting firm currently employs approximately thirty employees at this location and will be adding at least five more after they expand their offices to include the second floor of the building. APTech also has offices in the Chicago suburbs, Wisconsin, Nevada, Texas, and New Mexico.
- [The Illiac](#), a new free spring festival in Downtown Urbana will take place on May 10th.
- The Request For Qualifications commercial realty services for the 200 Block of South Vine Street will close on May 5th. Multiple real estate brokers have expressed interest in representing the site. Staff will proceed with selection of a broker to facilitate the development of a mixed-use building.
- Preparations are underway for the installation of two Curbanas for the pilot program. Bids for the decking system will close on May 5th. Public Works plans to construct the railing systems in house.
- Error Records has signed a lease at 123 W Main Street. The retail vinyl record store and all-ages micro-venue is relocating from Champaign. A skateboard retail shop also plans to open in the space.
- Oriental World, a gift and novelty store featuring many items imported from Asia, plans to open at 112 Lincoln Square, across from the Piato Food Court. Oriental World is relocating from its former location at Marketplace Mall in Champaign.
- Plans are under review for Dancing Dog Eatery & Juicery at 126 W Main Street.
- Renovations are complete for Masijta at 202 N Race Street in the Stratford Apartments. The new Korean BBQ is expected to open in the coming weeks.
- Cake Design has requested City support for a proposed redevelopment of 204 West Main Street into an open air market, beer garden and event space which would preserve the building's historic façade.
- Community Development Director Libby Tyler presented on "Infill Development and Filling In" at the American Planning Association Illinois Chapter's Spring Conference in Rockford, IL on April 10th. The presentation focused on the recent surge in development and activity in Downtown Urbana.

University-Medical

- Mas Amigos on University Ave has a new owner. The restaurant will be rebranded as Don Juan.
- A new hair salon and hair accessory shop, the Urbana's Hair Lounge, intends to open at 202 West University Avenue at the location of the former Mirror Image Hair Salon.
- Construction continues for the new Wendy's at the Five Points Commerce Center.

- Final design and review is underway for the Campus Circle apartment complex on University Ave. Renewal of their special use permit will be considered by Plan Commission on May 8th.
- Caffè Bene held their grand opening at Gregory Place East on April 11th. There was a line extending around the block on their first day in business!



Cunningham Avenue

- Uncle Martin's, a new restaurant and sports bar at 1104 N Cunningham Avenue, is expected to open this month.
- Twin City Tent & Awning has completed \$75,000 worth of energy efficiency and site improvements at their facility at 308 East Anthony Drive. Twin City will be awarded a \$7,400 reimbursement under the Redevelopment Incentive Program.

East Urbana

- The new Birkeys Farm Store on High Cross Road held their grand opening on April 4th.

Marketing and Events Activity

- The April 10th Realtor Bus Tour was a success with over 40 people in attendance. Each attendee received a marketing and promotional packet and heard from speakers for the City of Urbana, Urbana Business Association, Urbana Free Library, and Urbana School District #116.
- The Illinois Sister Cities Conference was held on April 12-13 at the Urbana Landmark Hotel. Staff created "welcome bags" for each conference attendee with information about Urbana and other information for out-of-town guests.
- Staff filmed the first "It's All About U" UPTV program in which individuals from the community are interviewed about upcoming events, happenings, programs, and services. The first program will air in May 2014 and will continue monthly on UPTV.
- The City and UBA staff hosted a booth at the 2014 Illinois Marathon Health and Wellness Fair on April 24-25 at the UIUC ARC. Visitors to the booth received information about Urbana and heart-shaped fans that said "Urbana Loves Runners".

Urbana's Market at the Square

- Publicity for the new market season is well underway. A series of radio advertisements will run over the next six months on Mix 94.5, the Market Director appeared on WCIA morning news, and a new "Market Menu" was filmed with Middle Market staff. The Market was also represented at both the Working Women's Expo and the Clark-Lindsey Village Health & Wellness Fair.
- The quarterly meeting of the Market Advisory Board took place on April 15.
- Staff presented a Sprouts at the Market workshop to a group of preschool students on April 29.
- The Market Director participated in the monthly Illinois Farmers Market Association Board Meeting.

Public Arts Program

- Over 50 people attended a reception to celebrate and recognize the 2014 Urbana Arts Grants recipients. The event took place on April 3rd at Pizza M in Downtown Urbana.
- Over 45 people attended a dedication ceremony on April 19th for Byways to Equality, a public art sculpture in King Park by Illinois artist Preston Jackson. A reception for the artist was held afterward at Cinema Gallery. The artist and staff were interviewed by WAND TV. Speakers at the dedication included: City Council Member Charlie Smythe, City Council Member Carol Ammons, Robert Lewis, Pat Sammann, Michael Walker and Tim Bartlett.
- The 2014 Art at the Market schedule is now available online at urbanaininois.us/artworkshops The following art workshop and performance are planned for May 10th:
 - Suminagashi printing with July Lee will run from 8am to Noon. Literally meaning "floating ink", Suminagashi is an ancient Japanese form of marbling dating back over 800 years. Colored inks are floated on a bath of clear water and then gently manipulated into delicate patterns. Paper is carefully laid on top of the water to absorb the colors and then lifted. This is a form of monoprinting where no two prints will be exactly the same.
 - Djibril Camara and the Mara Giri Dance Ensemble will perform from 9:30am to 11:30am. Enjoy the rhythm and movement of West African Dance and Drum. In the countries of West Africa, music and rhythm are both a large a part of everyday life. They are used to portray stories and celebrate marriage, child rearing, changing seasons, healing, hunting, and the planting and harvesting of crops. Learn more at djibrilcamaradance.weebly.com

Memorandum



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

Middle Market

The Middle Market season came to a close with perfect weather. In its second year, the market has seen an average attendance of 450 each month and is an improvement to last year's inaugural numbers. The winter weather has contributed to slower growth however improved weather for the fourth and final market resulted in increased attendance.

Board of Directors

The UBA Board of Directors and the Executive Director has held one of two retreats focusing on the future direction and growth of the organization. This first meeting was very productive and resulted in the beginning stages of a new mission statement and vision statement to bring the organization more in line with a focus on the business community. In addition, a Policy Committee has been formed and charter written within the guidelines of the existing by-laws. The first goals of the Policy Committee will be to create Board Member Guidelines, Staff Guidelines, and a Board Calendar.

New Staff Member

After receiving more than thirty resumes, and conducting multiple interviews, the Marketing Coordinator position has been filled. Daley Schwengel has accepted the position and will begin employment in mid-May upon graduation from Illinois State University. Daley is currently working as a marketing intern with the City of Urbana.

Membership Numbers

The 2014 renewals are 94% complete with a current retention rate of 94%. The 2014 membership year has seen the addition of 13 new member businesses.

Uncork Urbana Wine Festival

Planning continues to move forward with the wine festival; sponsors are being finalized, music line-up has been set, marketing materials have been created, and momentum is building. The UBA is partnering with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association as they secure 10-15 Illinois vineyards to participate. In addition, the UBA is partnering with Common Ground Food Co-op to provide food pairing and cooking demonstrations through a portion of the event. This event is restricted to attendees ages 21 and over.

Sweetcorn Festival

Sweetcorn planning continues with more than 20 vendors registered to date. Progress has been made on the entertainment line-up with contracts in place for the local bands. Sponsorship levels continue to grow. The UBA will continue to work with the downtown businesses to ensure they benefit from the event.