

# MARCH BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## Community Development

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor  
Elizabeth H. Tyler, Community Development Director



### Business Development Initiatives



#### THINK URBANA:

Information for Think Urbana is now available on the City website under Business and Development Incentives. Staff has received numerous requests from builders, realtors, and banks for Think Urbana information and presentations. The 2016 Realtor Bus Tour, to be held on April 12th, will highlight the opportunities available through Think Urbana.



#### NEW TIF:

ED Staff continues to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the active TIF districts for presentation at an upcoming Council meeting.



#### 1301 E. WASHINGTON

The City will retain Jay Sikorski of Coldwell Banker Devonshire Realty for the disposition of the City owned property at 1301 E Washington (former Tri-Star office).

### Community Development Initiatives



#### BIKE PLAN

Planning staff is incorporating suggested changes into the Bicycle Master Plan. The Bicycle Master Plan Steering Committee, BPAC, and Plan Commission will review the changes before the Plan is presented to Council for final approval.



#### PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Marketing staff updated the Downtown Urbana Guide and Welcome Brochure.

### Business & Community Updates



#### [co][lab]

Two new business, ACTIF, a wearable technology company, and SCOBAR, a screen-printing apparel company, opened in [co][lab].



#### WASHINGTON SCHOOL

The Urbana School District will open and accept bids for the sale of the property located at 1102 N Broadway on May 11th.

## Upcoming Events



APRIL 12, 8:00 -10:00 am:  
Realtors Bus Tour, departing from Meijer in Urbana, 2500 S Philo Road.



APRIL 15, 5:00 pm:  
Reception to celebrate the 2016 Urbana Arts Grants Program grantees. RSVP to the Urbana Public Arts Coordinator at [ptannos@urbanaininois.us](mailto:ptannos@urbanaininois.us).



APRIL 22, 3:00 - 5:00 pm:  
Steve Cochran Retirement, City Council Chambers, 400 S Vine St.



APRIL 23:  
Boneyard Creek Community Day.



APRIL 26, 5:30 - 7:30 pm:  
Development Announcement for the TWG Development proposal for 200 S Vine St, held at the Urbana Civic Center, 108 E Water St. Presentation at 6:00 pm.



APRIL 28 - 30:  
Illinois Marathon.



MAY 4:  
Visit Champaign County Toast to Tourism.



MAY 7:  
First 2016 Market at the Square.



MAY 17, 12:00 pm:  
Business & Development Luncheon.



MAY:  
Bike Month - activities including group bike rides; Bike to Work/School Day; a community bike sale; and Kickapoo Rail Trail groundbreaking.



MAY:  
Preservation Month - activities including research workshops; walking tours; and presence at Market at the Square.



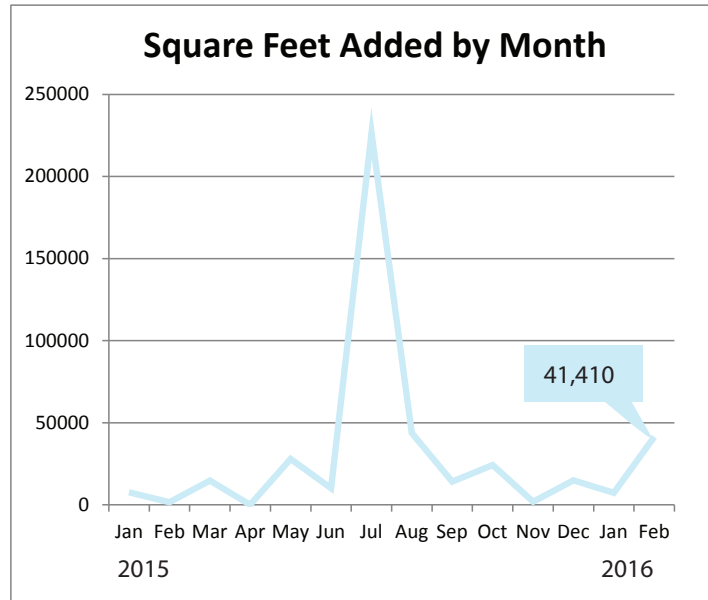
## Development Activity



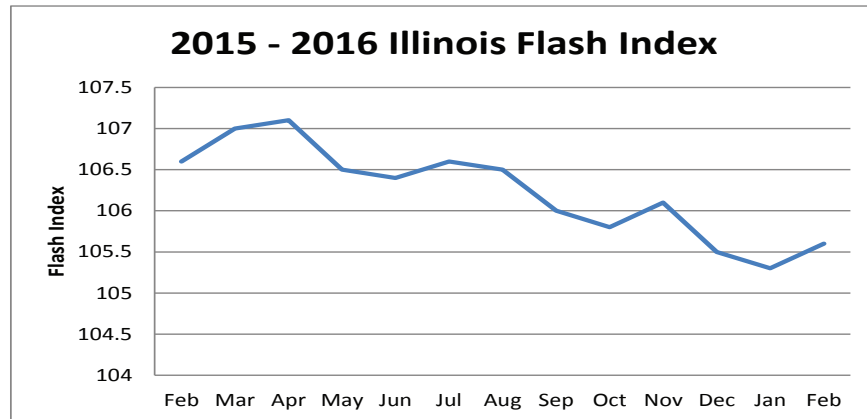
CURRENT PROJECTS			
BUSINESS	DESCRIPTION	URBANA LOCATION	PROJECT TYPE
<b>Downtown</b>			
Jolly Roger	<i>Vacant</i>	118 Water	Completed - Demolition
St. Patricks Church	<i>Religious</i>	708 W Main	Completed – Remodel/Addition
Sherwin Williams	<i>Paint retail</i>	203 N Vine	Under Construction – Remodel
Stephens Building	<i>Mixed use – 4 units</i>	218 W Main	Under Construction - Rehab
Lucy Lu’s	<i>Gaming Hall</i>	202 W University	Permit Issued - Renovation
Choices Inc.	<i>Social Service</i>	102 E. Main	Submitted Plans - Renovation
129 N Race	<i>Development</i>	129 N Race	Submitted Plans - Renovation
Dairy Queen	<i>Fast Food</i>	911 W University	Submitted Plans - Renovation
Mr. Gas Plus	<i>Gas Station</i>	809 E. Main	Applied Liquor License
<b>University-Medical</b>			
BBQ Chicken Express	<i>Restaurant</i>	Gregory Place E	Complete– Rehab
Next 2 Campus Apart-	<i>Residential – 84 Units</i>	901 Western	Under Construction –New
Campus Circle	<i>Mixed Use -181 Units</i>	University Ave	Under Construction – New
Farmhouse Fraternity	<i>Fraternity</i>	809 W Pennsylvania	Under Construction - Remodel
CUMTD	<i>Government</i>	1101 E University	Under Construction – Expansion
<b>North Lincoln Avenue</b>			
Crisis Nursery	<i>Social Service</i>	1309 W Hill	Under Construction - Addition
Henson Disposal	<i>Recycling</i>	910 Saline Court	Under Construction - New
Leek & Sons	<i>Funeral Home</i>	1215 Bradley Avenue	Plans Reviewed - New
Mosque & Islamic Association	<i>Religious</i>	106 S Lincoln	Permit Issued - New
Auto Repair	<i>Auto Repair</i>	1908 N Linview	Submitted Plans - New
Soccer Planet	<i>Recreation</i>	2310 Willow Rd	Submitted Plans - New
<b>Cunningham Avenue</b>			
Eastland Apartments	<i>Residential – 40 Units</i>	1905 N Cunningham	Under Construction - New
Highland Green	<i>Affordable Workforce &amp; Veteran – 33 Units</i>	401 & 403 E Kerr	Preparing Plans - New
<b>South Urbana</b>			
Clark-Lindsey Village	<i>Residential, Wellness,– 24 residents</i>	101 W Windsor	Under Construction- New
Rigg’s Beer Distribution	<i>Brewery</i>	1901 S. High Cross	Under Construction - Renovation
Dottie’s	<i>Gaming Hall</i>	1901 S Philo	Applied Liquor License
Quick Shop 66	<i>Gaming Hall</i>	1511 E Washington	Submitted Plans - Renovation
Amber Glen	<i>Assisted Living</i>	1704 E Amber Lane	Submitted Plans - Remodel
Urbana Food Mart	<i>Convenience</i>	1501 E Washington	Applied Liquor License



## Added Square Feet



## Research & Analysis



The U of I Flash Index provides a fast look at the performance of the Illinois economy. In March 2015 the Flash Index declined to 105.1 from 105.6 level February, the lowest level in 3 years.  
*Source: U of I Flash Index*

Home values decreased by 0.3% from January 2016 to February 2016. Annually, Urbana home values increased by 0.1%, compared to 0.3% in Champaign.  
*Source: Zillow.com Local Market Overviews*

In February, the market saw strong gains, with 154 total homes sold, an increase of 27.3% from February 2015. An additional 270 home sales were pending, a gain of 37% from February 2015. The median home sale price in February 2016 was 11.3% lower than in February 2015.

*Source: CCAR Newsletter 3/17/2016*



# Memorandum

**TO:** Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor  
**FROM:** Paris Blalock, Executive Director  
**DATE:** April 7, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Urbana Business Association Activities Report for March 2016

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## **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH**

- At the first of March, the new UBA membership structure, benefits and services were completed.
- Renewals were sent out on Friday March 11, 2016.
- As of March 31, 2016:
  - Membership Renewals: 25% of the paying membership base has paid their renewal dues. While doing follow ups, we have not received any negative feedback on the increase of dues and businesses still plan on renewing their membership.
  - New Members
    - Illini Home Buyers
    - Co Lab/Cafeteria & Co.
    - GIF Digital, Inc.
  - Membership Drops
    - 3 due to business closing (all paying members)
    - 1 because trade agreement was no longer needed (non-paying member)
    - 1 because new affiliation does not allow (paying member)

## **MARKETING &EVENTS**

- A new interactive website was launch. Check it out! [www.urbanabusines.com](http://www.urbanabusines.com)
- **Middle Market** – Steady year. Overall, Natalie and I are developing methods that make UBA markets and Market at the Square a more cohesive year round market for the community.
- **BIZBASH**– Monthly evening networking event to be held on Weds April 13 @ 5pm
- **Uncork Wine Festival**– Planning underway. Date set for Saturday June 18
- **Sweetcorn Festival 2016** – Dates: Aug 26 & 27. Main stage talent to be finalized and announced by the end of April.
- **13 Thursdays Campustown Marketing Promotion** – UBA Partnered with Champaign Center Partnership to host a promotion that directs traffic to our member businesses in Campustown May 19-Aug 11.
  - Every Thursday a business will offer an incentive to visit their business
  - The organizations will host three events each month this summer. (Please visit our websites for more details)
    - Brain Games and BBQ Dash
    - Sing for Your City Karaoke Contest
    - 4 of a Kind Pub Crawl
- **Street Pole Banners** – Arrangements have been made to change banners to spring banners as well as to take a complete inventory of exactly is displayed on each pole, the condition of the banners and any other updates or changes that need to be made to the pole banners. Once the weather clears, this will be done immediately.

## **STAFF**

We are proud to announce that we have hired a new Marketing and Events Manager, Megan Casey. She starts Monday April 11. If you would like to meet Megan, please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself or attend our BIZBASH on April 19th.