



Economic Development Administrative Report Items: February 2010

What's happening...

Here are items happening in Economic Development since January's Administrative Report was distributed:

LAKE COUNTY PARTNERS

- Director Krajniak attended the Lake County Partners' meeting in Mundelein. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the outcome of Chicago Deal Making Show. As a member of Lake County Partners, Wauconda shared a booth at the show with a number of other member communities. Also discussed were the expectations of LCP members and its staff and new Director.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE – SPRING NEWSLETTER

- Director Krajniak attended a Communications Committee meeting at Village Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to review Goal "E" of the 2015 Strategic Plan before the February 9th COW meeting. At the meeting, the committee members discussed communication tools such as the Village website, "e-News for the Community," Connect CTY emergency notifications, and the "Village Voice" newsletter, which will be going to print in mid-March.

The main focus for Economic Development's article is business support - specifically, highlighting the Village's efforts to partner with local organizations to share information and build stronger ties to our community and its businesses.

The article also offers information about County and State agencies that are prepared to help potential and existing business owners through programs such as free business counseling services, marketing seminars and financial counseling and funding. This information is important when considering business retention and growth within our community.

EXECUTIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

- The Executive Economic Development Committee met to discuss Goal “B” of the 2015 Strategic Plan; the status of redevelopment options; and updates from the Economic Development Advisory Group. From that discussion, the following was requested:

BUSINESS DISTRICT SURVEY

- Director Krajniak has just completed an informal survey of towns in Illinois that have implemented a Business District. Responses came from Glen Carbon, Collinsville, East Dundee, and Stanford. A few of the communities have shopping malls within their boundaries, one town implemented the Business District in anticipation of development, and others chose to focus on small retail areas.

What were the results of the informal poll? The Business District Program had a positive impact and businesses outside the district were not affected. In fact, a representative from the Village of Stanford stated, “When we were first exploring the idea some business owner's raised questions about possibly losing customers, but honestly, since we have implemented the Business Development District we haven't received any complaints, nor have we lost any of our businesses.”

- On Thursday, February 25th, Director Krajniak and Deb Ogorzaly met with Michael Racana from RE/MAX Commercial in Huntley, Illinois. Michael contacted the Economic Development Department to discuss the possibility of future commercial development in Wauconda. He not only represents CVS Pharmacy, but also a number of developers that are looking for opportunities along major corridors such as Route 12.

Business Inquiries:

- Main Street Café – there have been a number of general interest questions
- Steiner's Bait Shop - there have been a number of general interest questions

Business Closings:

- Wild Bill's Grill, but new business tenant is planning to reopen under new name
- The Wauconda Community Bank sent out an e-mail announcing that their satellite branch located on Dato Lane will be closing in the near future. Knowing this, the Economic Development Department has taken steps to approach developers about possible commercial opportunities.