



Littleton Economic Notes June 2012

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Littleton Businesses

A Grand Opening ceremony and ribbon cutting marked the opening of the Walmart Neighborhood Market in the Columbine Valley Shopping Center at 3615 W. Bowles Ave. Along with giveaways and other treats, store manager Jennifer Plant presented grant money to a wide variety of community groups including \$1,000 each to the Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network, the Colorado Center for the Blind and Inter-Faith Community Services. The store is open around the clock 7 days a week and employs 80 people. Along with a full line of groceries, the 43,746-square-foot store offers a self-serve deli, a pharmacy and digital-photo printing. (303) 218-4873

Manna Bakery & Deli is back after a hiatus of 12 years! Debbie Chadwich and her three daughters opened the new store in the Broadridge Shopping Center at 6905 S. Broadway. Along with old favorites such as homemade baked goods, meatloaf sandwiches, soups and lemon bars, the menu also features gluten-free, organic and vegan items. 303.798.2797; www.mannabakerydeli.com

Redland Consulting Group (8000 S Lincoln St #206) was one of the top 100 finalists for this year's 50 Companies to Watch awards program sponsored by the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade and the Edward Lowe Foundation. Redland provides clients with individualized solutions to their civil engineering, site design and program management needs. 720.283.6783; www.redland.com

A Grand Opening party with ribbon cutting announced the arrival of Altitude Paddleboards at 2690 W. Main St. this month. Owners John and Nancy Bridenbaugh carry both epoxy composite and inflatable paddleboards as well as land paddleboards and paddles. Their brands include the full line of NSP and KM Hawaii composite SUPs and Trident and KM paddles. Open by appointment during the week, the store maintains regular hours on the weekend. 720.810.4142; <http://altitudepaddleboards.com/>

Two Littleton businesses were among the 129 winners in 5280's Top of the Town 2012 list this year.

***Couture Kids Boutique** is a consignment store for children located in the Woodlawn shopping center at 1500 W. Littleton Blvd. Owner Cailin Clements was given high marks for the kid-friendly store with its time-tested brands and toys for growing minds. 303.794.3110; couturekidsboutique.com

***Willow-An Artisan's Market** (2400 W. Main St.) was praised as *the* place to go for sure-to-find gift items for just about anybody. From jewelry to pillows to kitchen items, Helen Rice and Donna Jaegers keep the store filled with a huge selection of items from more than 200 hand-selected artisans. 303.730.8521; willowartisans-market.com

Michelle Shockey and Amanda Abraham held a ribbon cutting for their new store, Craft Scraps, in the Woodlawn Shopping Center (1500 W. Littleton Blvd.). Filled with recycled and never used crafting items, there seems to be something for everyone in the store (including a men's corner). The shop will begin offering classes sometime in August. 303.798.2192; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Craft-Scraps/232327016790740>

Other

Chris Gibbons was named the first Legacy Honoree of the Colorado Companies to Watch at its recent gala event. The statewide program is sponsored by the Colorado office of Economic Development & International Trade and the Edward Lowe Foundation to recognize the significant economic contribution made by second stage companies in Colorado. Program Director Stephanie Steffens told attendees that "Chris has worked throughout his career to not only support existing businesses in his community but to raise awareness for the critical value of second-stage companies to the economy of our state and our nation. The City of Littleton was one of the very first funders of *Colorado Companies to Watch*, and if it weren't for Chris' vision and leadership, this program may have never come to Colorado."

The Littleton Housing Authority recently changed its name to South Metro Housing Options (SMHO), which more accurately reflects its mission to strengthen the community by offering diverse housing opportunities. The SMHO staff of 30 maintains some 600 units within the city, manages Geneva Village for the City of Littleton and administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program throughout Arapahoe County. It also oversees housing rehabilitation programs for both Littleton and Centennial. The SMHO Sneaker Fund provides educational and recreational assistance to low income families, and its scholarship program has awarded over \$85,000 since its inception. This year's annual Pack the Backpacks program will provide backpacks to SMHO students and to a local elementary school. 303.991.5310; www.southmetrohousingoptions.org

Calendar

HDLM: Town Hall Arts Center, 8:00, Wednesday, July 11

Insights

Commentary on business, the economy and innovative practices

To all our business colleagues in Littleton: I am retiring from the City of Littleton on June 30th after 25 years as B/IA department head. It has been my singular good fortune to work in this community with so many people who have become friends. Our Economic Gardening program has always been based on the idea that we can grow our economy by helping local entrepreneurs. It has paid off in spades as jobs have doubled and sales tax tripled over the last 20 years. The program has been copied in 17 states and regions and numerous communities across America as well as countries like Australia, Canada, Northern Ireland and Japan. The core expertise has always resided in our team, and they will still be here to help you. Thank you one and all for the opportunity to serve you and my best wishes to you, your companies and your employees.

--Chris Gibbons

The mission of the Business/Industry Affairs department is to grow our economy by helping Littleton entrepreneurs be competitive. Call B/IA at 303.795.3749 if we can help.

--- Christian Gibbons, Director (cgibbons@littletongov.org).

Past issues of the Littleton Economic Notes are on the City of Littleton website at <http://www.littletongov.org/bia/econnotes/default.asp>

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