



Littleton Economic Notes December 2011

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Littleton Businesses

Ronald McDonald was on hand for the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting celebration for McDonald's new building at 5858 S. Santa Fe Dr. Owner Greg Merrill took remodeling to a new level by removing the entire original structure and replacing it with a sleek new concept building with two drive-through ordering stations. A long time supporter of the Littleton community, Greg enhanced the celebration by presenting a check for \$1,000 to the Colorado Center for the Blind. 303.795.5649

Nick Ozimek at Silver Sage Garden Centers is saving folks a trip to the mountains to cut down a Christmas tree by growing his own at 6775 S. Santa Fe Dr. according to a recent *Denver Post* YourHub interview. Normally open from April through October, the center will be open through Dec. 21 for last minute tree and wreath shoppers. Nick opened this business in 2009 with the idea of educating customers about plants and trees so that they get the right ones for their individual situations, a philosophy that has garnered many satisfied repeat customers. 303.730.7243; silversageco.com

Keller Bros. Auto in Littleton has been named a Top Ten Repair Shop in the Nation by *Motor Age Magazine* for the second time since 2009. In business for 39 years, Terry Keller's shop has won numerous other awards, including the Ethics in Business Award in 2009, and was one of the top three finalists for the Better Business Bureau Torch Award in both 2009 and 2010. Servicing all makes and models with ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified technicians, the shop also offers free rides to and from work and home. 303.347.1010; www.kellerbros.com

St. Nick's Christmas and Collectibles (5221 S. Santa Fe Dr.) is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and as always, the year-round store is packed to the rafters with super-sized displays and thousands of seasonal items throughout some 20 rooms that make up the wonderland store. In a YourHub article in the *Denver Post*, the Sealy's spoke of how as a family owned and run business, they are proud that their business has become a part of many families' holiday traditions. 303.798.8087; <http://stnicks.com>

Aspen Grove Shopping Mall (7301 S. Santa Fe) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year with a wide array of familiar and some one-of-a-kind stores, more interesting events than can almost be imagined, and the announcement by General Manager Margie Munoz that Alamo Draffhouse Cinema would be opening there in late 2012. Construction is underway on the east side for the seven-screen complex, which will offer food, drinks and special events. Some additional retail space will also be built on that side. 303.794.0640; <http://www.shopaspengrove.com>

Karen and Gary Arras have opened Woodlawn Storage at the Woodlawn Shopping Center at 1500 W. Littleton Blvd. They offer long and short term indoor storage that is climate controlled. Storage areas vary in size, and help is available for moving. 303.564.2650

Fabric Expressions and owner Alison Dale were featured in the YourHub section of a recent Denver Post. Located in the Columbine Valley Shopping Center (3625 W. Bowles Ave.) the shop is known for its inventory of fabrics (over 4,000 bolts) as well as its wide selection of kits, books, patterns, other quilting supplies and classes, many of which Alison teaches. Sign ups for new classes along with a display of class samples will be available at the upcoming Open House Jan. 13-15. 303.798.2556; fabricexpressions.com

Felicia Behm is the owner of the Slap Happy Music Studio that recently opened at 190 W. Rafferty Gardens Ave. A talented performer and degreed teacher, she has both private and group classes in myriad areas including percussion, piano, flute, body music and world music for students of all ages, all levels and all ideas. 720.295.8209; www.slaphappymusic.com

5280 Magazine recently produced an Insider's Guide to the South Suburbs supplement that covered the following Littleton businesses: Willow-An Artisan's Market (2400 W. Main St., willowartisansmarket.com); Details Boutique (2359 W. Main St., detailsboutique.com); Blue Ruby Boutique (2510 W. Main St., bluerubydesignboutique.com); Pink Attic Cat (2555 W. Alamo Ave., pinkatticcat.com); Oh, So Charming Cottage (5684 S. Datura St., ohsocharmingcottage.com); Couture Kids Boutique (1500 W. Littleton Blvd.); Sweet Beginnings (5767 S. Rapp St. oursweetbeginnings.com); Neighborhood Bookstore (5661 S. Curtice St., neighborhoodbookstore.com); Tres Jolie (2399 W. Main St., tresjoliestyle.com); SerendipiTEA Shoppe, (5610 S. Curtice St., serendipi-teashoppe.com); Opus Restaurant; (2575 W. Main St., opusdine.com); Los Tres Reyes; (1500 W. Littleton Blvd., lostresreyaqueria.com).

Love INC of Littleton recently held an open house to celebrate its relocation to Littleton Housing's former headquarters at 5854 S Datura St. Named "the 2011 best local nonprofit in Littleton" by the *Littleton Independent*, the mission of Love INC is to mobilize the churches in the area to help neighbors in need. It is made up of a network of churches that link church ministries and volunteers to people in need with churches, nonprofit agencies and county services in Jefferson, Arapahoe and Douglas counties. 303.798.0037; www.loveinlittleton.org

Nominations are open for the 2012 Colorado Companies to Watch awards. This program recognizes innovative businesses headquartered in Colorado with 6 to 99 employees and revenues between \$750,000 and \$50,000,000. The B/IA supports this organization because even though businesses of this size generate more jobs per capita than businesses of any other size, they often go unrecognized. In the three years since Colorado Companies to Watch has been active in Colorado, Littleton has had three winners: Novus Biologicals (2009), Vivax Pro Painting (2011) and Transform Software and Services (2011). You can nominate a qualified business, yours or someone else's, through 1/31/2012 at <http://colorado.companiestowatch.org/>.

Littleton's Economic Gardening program is one of six finalists for Harvard's "Innovations in American Government" Award, which recognizes innovation in the public sector for solving government problems. Former Littleton Mayor Doug Clark and former Littleton City Manager Jim Woods traveled to Harvard November 15 to present Littleton's program to the members of the award committee. The winner is eligible to receive a grant of \$100,000, and each finalist receives a \$10,000 grant.

WATCH FOR

City Bark is planning to open its new Doggie Day Care facility at 6235 S. Santa Fe Dr. in early 2012.

Other

City Council has approved the Final Subdivision plat for the CarMax development on the 9.5 acre site at 5850 S. Broadway, just south of Littleton Blvd. The existing 68,000 sq. ft. building will be demolished and replaced with one that is 27,000 sq. ft. The new building will be situated further back from the road to the East with only one access point from South Broadway. CarMax is a Fortune 500 company.

Circle K Stores has submitted a final Site Development Plan to redevelop property located at 3694 West Bowles Avenue. The existing automotive fuel facility will be demolished and a new 4,162 s.f. Circle K convenience store and fuel facility will be constructed.

Insights

Commentary on business, the economy and innovative practices

We at the Business/Industry Affairs Department wish all our business colleagues a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Despite all the economic turbulence in the last few years, Littleton is still a stable and vibrant community. There are communities in the Midwest where rusting manufacturing plants are shuttered and forlorn Main Streets are full of vacant stores. Our unemployment rate has averaged around 6.8% when the national rate was over 9%. We had a mild downturn in revenues but the city made smart moves that tightened our belts while maintaining essential public services. Food bank requests are up but so are donations.

We have made a big bet that Littleton's entrepreneurs will get us through these tough economic times, and it is proving to be a wise choice. Economic Gardening has been picked up by a dozen states including Florida and Michigan and numerous communities across the country. Thanks to all of you who create jobs and wealth for our community. Happy Holidays to you and yours.



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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