



## Littleton Economic Notes March 2012

[www.littletongov.org](http://www.littletongov.org)

### Littleton Businesses

**A ribbon cutting marked the opening day of business for Rapid Fire Bunker at 5765 S. Curtice St.** Dawn Huston, Steve Puckett, and Shean Huston offer affordable survival gear, protection hardware and grab-n-go bags as a means of providing confidence, security and peace of mind against unexpected, life-changing events. 303.797.8278; [www.rapidfirebunker.com](http://www.rapidfirebunker.com)

**A Knitted Peace (5654 S. Prince St.)** was featured in a recent **YourHub** section of *The Denver Post*. The shop's owners, Jane Dickinson and Marsha Asheim, and their expert staff are eager to help knitters and crocheters find just what they need in the well-stocked shop of accessories and miles of colorful yarns of all types. In addition, they are all on a mission to resolve any stitchery problems that customers may run into. Along with scheduled classes and knitting bees, the shop also offers free knitting help sessions from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. every Thursday. 303.730.0366; [www.agnittedpeace.com](http://www.agnittedpeace.com)

**Downtown Dinners is moving to the Broadridge Shopping Center opening Tuesday, April 3.** Owner Lucie Stanish says the same people, service and items will be available to customers at the new place, along with plenty of convenient parking. The store on Main St. will close at the end of the day on March 31. 303.798.3463; [www.downtowndinners.com](http://www.downtowndinners.com)

**Rusty Bucket Antiques has returned to Littleton after a four-year hiatus** and settled in at 2690 W. Main St. Lisa and Roger Porter have filled their space with a great selection of all things rustic, from furniture and farm implements to the smallest of well used items from the past. 720.473.2427

**Tracy Gatz recently opened Downtown Floral at 5743 S. Prince St.** just down the road a bit from Englewood where the family-owned shop has operated for 20 years. Although it specializes in weddings and other events, the shop has flowers for all occasions and is open Monday through Friday. 303.789.6017; <http://downtownfloral6.vpweb.com/>

**Pedal owners Bill Nagel and Andy Chrisman held a ribbon cutting to celebrate** the completion of their new store in the Riverside Downs Shopping Center at 2640 W. Belleview. Fully stocked and open seven days a week, it offers just about anything a cyclist could want or need concerning bicycles and

accessories (including tune-ups and other service). 303.798.5033; <http://pedlaonline.com/>

## Other

**Mayor Brinkman tipped us off to this great program for small business lending** put together by the Colorado Bankers Association. Take a look at their web site:

<http://www.smallbizlending.org/about-us/>

**The Aspen Grove 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Fling happens April 7 (12:00 to 3:00 p.m.)** and will benefit Loving Hugs, Inc., a group with the mission of helping bring comfort and aid to children, individuals and families throughout the world affected by war, poverty or natural disasters. Just bring along a cuddly stuffed animal for a child in need of a hug and enjoy: a petting zoo, a balloon artist, face painting, magic shows and other entertainment, drawing on the sidewalks, planting a flower in the community garden and learning about nature from Nature's Educators as they present Birds of Prey.

[www.shopaspengrove.com](http://www.shopaspengrove.com) or [http://www.facebook.com/AspenGroveCO?ref+tn\\_tnmn](http://www.facebook.com/AspenGroveCO?ref+tn_tnmn)

**Anthem Memory Care has filed a site development plan for the property at 6767 South Broadway** for a 35,000 square foot, single story building that will serve 60 residents.

## Calendar

*HDLM: Wednesday, April 4, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall Arts Center*

## Insights

### Commentary on business, the economy and innovative practices

Last Tuesday, the B/IA staff made a 2.5 hour presentation about Littleton economic facts to the city council. One hour was spent on a field trip to look at the last remaining undeveloped parcels in town, including the Ensor property at Santa Fe and Mineral and the "Marathon" property on Broadway. We also looked at potential redevelopment projects and previous successful projects.

Staff also presented data showing that Littleton's sales tax revenues have recovered, business openings are strong, new development is starting to happen again, unemployment rates are below State and Arapahoe County levels, and foreclosure rates are lower than State and Arapahoe County. Perhaps most dramatic is the fact that Littleton's entrepreneurs have added jobs every year from 2006-2011 right through the heart of the recession. We are the only metro community to do so.

It was noted that Littleton's Economic Gardening program has received over 800 inquiries including organizations like the Michael Bloomberg Foundation in NYC, European Innovation Council, Council of State Legislatures, National League of Cities, Harvard, Small Business Research Institute of Japan,

City of Chicago, State of Florida and North Down Borough, Northern Ireland. In addition, the council was briefed on the success rates of recruiting for towns the size of Littleton (about one deal every three to six years) and some cautions about recruiting abuses that have occurred in Denver and across the country.

Finally, the Council reviewed the Englewood plan for Broadway, the Longmont Entrepreneurial Network and a business retention team in Coachella Valley, California. No policy decisions were made at the meeting.

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*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](mailto: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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