



Littleton Economic Notes September 2010

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Littleton Businesses

A sign for Downtown Dinners has replaced the one for Super Suppers at 2540 W. Main St., but customers will find everything else is still in place...including owner Lucie Stanish. Now operating independently, Lucie is bringing in more local products and lots of new recipes for the homemade take-and-bake meals she creates to make meal times easier. The shop also has side dishes and homemade desserts that range from cookies and scones to apple crisp. 303.798.3463; www.downtowndinners.com

The Denver Post featured Littleton's Woodlawn Floral (1799 W. Littleton Blvd.) in a "yourhub.com" section this month. Marsha Jones had been in the floral business for 33 years when she decided to buy her own store in 2008. She enjoys being able to provide customers with not only traditional but also unique and custom order floral arrangements using the freshest and healthiest flowers and plants available. The shop also features associated gift items. 303.794.0267; www.littletonwoodlawnfloral.com

Carrie Searles held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of her new yoga studio, Kosha Yoga, in the Woodlawn Shopping Center (1500 W. Littleton Blvd.). She offers classes that focus on strength, balance, flexibility and relaxation in her newly renovated space. She also has two massage therapists and a Thai Yoga massage therapist on staff. In addition, she sells yoga products. 303.875.2438; www.koshayoga.org

Automotive News has named Lisa Schomp, owner-president of Ralph Schomp Automotive (5700 S. Broadway), one of the "100 Leading Women in the North American Auto Industry." The third-generation car dealer is one of only 13 of the 100 women on the retail side of the business. Lisa began her career serving coffee and donuts to customers at her father's dealership. When she convinced him to let her follow in his footsteps, she was only the second woman to attend the "General Motors' Dealers' Son School" as it was known at the time. 303.798.1500; www.schomp.com

The Savory Spice shop was also featured in a “yourhub.com” section of *The Denver Post* this month. Owners Mike and Janet Johnston opened their Littleton store (2650 W. Main St.) not too long after the major success of their original shop in Denver. With four stores currently in Colorado and online sales across the country, the Johnstons have just realized the opening of their first franchise shop in California. All of the stores feature freshly ground spices, herbs and seasoning mixes that can be purchased prepackaged or, with most, in any size you need down to half an ounce. 720.283.2232; www.savoryspiceshop.com

Sue Santori held a ribbon cutting for the opening of The Rav House in the Southbridge Shopping Center (191 S. Mineral Ave.). Her unique shop features an array of handmade food items to go, many made from family recipes. Visitors will find fresh pasta varieties, box lunches and dinners, gourmet cooking ingredients and accompaniments (truffles, oils, cheeses, etc.), party trays and many gluten-free items. Sue also provides catered items for small and large events including weddings. 303.955.5973; www.homemadegourmetcolorado.com

General Manager Norman Stucker recently opened an office for PADT, a mechanical engineering services company that specializes in prototyping and simulations, product development and rapid manufacturing. Over the last 16 years the company has grown from 4 aerospace engineers to 65 engineers and technicians that serve a worldwide client base. The Littleton office (5439 S. Prince St.) is their first one outside the Phoenix area and will focus on Colorado and Utah’s growing technology and medical product development sector. 720.287.2192; www.padtinc.com;

Mercedes-Benz of Littleton (8070 S. Broadway) held a grand opening party with ribbon cutting to celebrate the major remodel of their 10-year old facility that added an additional 2,000 sq. ft. to the building and incorporated the Mercedes “Auto Haus” decorative style in the showroom. The service area was also remodeled. Owner Norman Braman, General Manager Terry Minnick, General Counsel Stanley Krieger, and CFO Bob Bernstein were all on hand to greet invited guests. 303.738.7700, www.mboflittleton.com

Other

The 17.57 acre site between South Platte Park and the Aspen Grove Shopping Center (7301 S. Santa Fe Dr.) has been purchased by Wood Partners, LLC for the future site of Alta Aspen Grove, a 280-unit garden-style apartment community packed with high-end amenities. Construction of the eco-friendly, transit-oriented development is due to begin immediately so that units will be available for lease by spring 2011. Plans call for 17 two-story buildings for the gated community that will include a clubhouse with fitness center with full kitchen and entertainment area, media center and cyber café along with outdoor features that include a pool, waterfall, Jacuzzi, television, and outdoor fireplace. Cars can be washed onsite, and there will be a year-round dog-washing area and a dog park.

Two projects received funding from the Main Street Historic District Grant program at a recent Historic Preservation Board meeting.

- 2449-2455 W. Main St.: Office of Hedrick and Associates; Owner Richard Hedrick; Historic Name: Havener Millinery Building | Reconstruction of original 1905 brick façade with wood storefront | Grant amount: \$20,000; projected cost: \$50,000 to \$55,000
- 2299 W. Main Street: Delizios Organic Coffee & Wine Bar; Tenant, Bob Mickus; Owner, Kal Murib; Historic Name: Sommers Oil Building | Installation of second garage door opening onto patio seating area | Grant amount: \$5,280; projected cost: \$10,000 to \$12,700

Calendar

HDLM Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 6, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall Arts Center

Insights

Commentary on business, the economy and innovative practices

Details from the recently passed Small Business Jobs Act:

- Raises loan guarantees, loan caps and lending limits under the SBA
- Expensing of up to \$500,000 in capital investments
- Write off of 50% of the cost of new equipment and 100% exclusion from capital gains taxes on small business investments
- Increased tax deduction for trade or business start-up expenditures from \$5,000 to \$20,000 in 2010 and 2011
- Tax cuts for restaurant owners and retailers who remodel their stores or build new ones.
- A new loan fund
- Small business owners/self-employed can deduct the costs of health insurance for themselves and their families from self-employment taxes for the 2010 tax year.
- Larger businesses can more quickly recover the costs of capital improvements through depreciation.

*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).*