



Littleton Economic Notes January 2010

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Littleton Businesses

Norgren Inc. (5400 S. Delaware St.) celebrated the multimillion-dollar retrofit of its main building with a ceremony that included Governor Bill Ritter, Mayor Doug Clark, J.D. Johnson, President of Norgren's U.S. and Americas Division, and past presidents of the company. After years of debating a move, Norgren decided to keep its division headquarters and engineering labs on the 30-acre site where it has been since 1957. It intends to add 40 jobs to its current roster of 230 employees in the near future. The company, which makes valves, filters and regulators, has manufacturing plants around the world. Undeveloped sections of the 30-acre site are available for purchase.

A ribbon cutting marked the grand opening of Big Papa's BBQ in Littleton (5151 S. Federal Blvd.) by CEO Bill Cosoff and Managing Partner Frank Alfonso. The full-service restaurant is the third in the Southeast Denver area. It features smoked ribs, pulled pork, brisket, chicken, turkey, hotlinks—and for “non-smokers”—catfish and steak, along with a host of sides and desserts. Brian McCurdy is the General Manager of this location, which has a full bar and patio, and offers delivery and catering services.

Al and Jessica Oramas recently held a ribbon cutting in celebration of the opening of a Pro Auto Care at 2753 W. Church St. This is their second shop; the first has been located in Denver for 17 years. Specializing in the service and repair of Honda, Acura, Toyota, Lexus, Nissan, Infiniti, Subaru and Mazda cars and trucks, Pro Auto Care provides experienced personnel and great customer service. The latter includes free shuttle service to or from home or business and even a complimentary rental car in some instances. Dave Ferguson is Manager of the new shop, which also has a car wash.

Novus Biologicals (8100 SouthPark Way) has announced the opening of its new tissue culture lab. The company is an international supplier of antibodies, biological products and materials to various scientific sectors. This expansion will help Novus “increase validation capabilities to bring better products and more accurate information to the consumer market,” according to a senior Novus scientist. Novus was founded by Karen Padgett, President of the company.

Celebrating the move of I Love It from S. Broadway to 2370 W. Main St., Peggy McConnell hosted a recent ribbon cutting and showed off the store's new focus. The larger space features unique decorative household items, artisan wares, selected decorative consignment items, and a changing variety of other unique pieces.

Ackerman and Sons Furniture Workshop (2400 W. Belleview Ave.) was featured in “Yourhub.com” section of *The Denver Post*, which highlighted a five generation reputation for quality furniture building, finishing, repair, and upholstery work. Owner Mike Ackerman noted that the small showroom belies the almost city block of workspace and climate controlled storage for the furniture pieces.

The Humane Society of the South Platte Valley opened at the end of December in a 6,500 sq. ft. facility at 2123 W. Chenango Ave. The new shelter took in the animals being displaced by the closure of the Colorado Humane Society of Englewood and has many new arrivals as well that are waiting to be adopted. Nick Fisher, former director of the Table Mountain Animal Shelter in Jefferson County, will be operating the facility and noted that “The cities of Littleton and Englewood have been fabulous in their support, both financially and in spirit.”

Other

The Littleton Police Department recently announced a new Business Watch program. It gives businesses a connection with the Police Department, which helps them keep their businesses safe and deters the possibility that a business is a victim of crime. To be a member, businesses must “opt in” for receipt of crime information and be willing to be “eyes and ears” for the business community. Participating businesses will receive decals and signage that identifies them as members in the program. Go to www.littletonpolice.org to opt in.

The Littleton Police Department has also announced that it is now a participant in the “Crime Reports” internet program. This web page allows access to all documented police activities occurring in the City of Littleton. Crime activity information (updated daily) can be accessed for a particular neighborhood for a specific time period, and users can receive email alerts about crime activities of their choice within a selected radius of an address. Go to www.crimereports.com to see the program.

Calendar

HDLM: Feb. 3, 2010, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall Arts Center

Insights

Commentary on business, the economy and innovative practices

While new development is stalled because of the recession, the creation of new businesses is not. Every week, we still meet with entrepreneurial folks who are pursuing their life dreams to start a business. Believe it or not, there are even growing businesses in town—companies that have continued to add jobs in the darkest hours of this economic downturn. This June, the Colorado Companies to Watch awards program will honor its second class of growth companies, and several Littleton companies are nominated. While the federal government is busy with stabilizing the fiscal/monetary system, it is the entrepreneurs in Littleton and communities like it all across the nation that will produce the needed jobs.

*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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