



**Report to ECDC  
March 5, 2014**

**Prepared by Sarah Richardt, Lombard Town Centre Executive Director**

### **Summary of Activities: February 2014**

It has been an extremely busy month. Almost every other day a possible business owner is calling or stopping by to look at Downtown Lombard. Keith Steiskal (head of Lombard's building department) and I talked about the high volume of calls that we are both receiving. Hopefully, this will translate to a great new business year.

I attended 2 meetings last month from Illinois Main Street. These meetings were hosted by the Illinois Department of Commerce, NIU and Illinois Main Street. The focus of these meetings was business recruitment and retention. NIU offered 10.25 continuing education credits for attending. February 25–February 27, I attended the Illinois Main Street Director's Retreat in Moline, IL. This retreat focused on developing residential development on the top floors of historic properties as well as Main Street best practices.

### **Business Retention**

- Obtained parking permits for
  - Deer Fina
  - Maid Pro
  - VIP Sports
  - Will help all businesses this month because permits are expiring March 31
- Contacted police (Sgt. Dave Kundrot) about parking problems, shoes on power lines, graffiti to help business
- Dance it again is closing in May due to personal issues
- Businesses visited
  - Maid Pro
  - VIP sports
  - Main Street Café
  - ESQUIRE
  - 20 West
  - Fairy Tales
  - Capones
  - Kindercare
  - Café 101
  - Punky's
  - Deer Fina
  - Red Caffeine
  - Shannons butcher and deli
  - Hair experts
  - Sweet Street

- Sandra Pihos
- Park Guitars
- T's and Taps
- Left information at rest of businesses except golf pro.

## Business Recruitment

- I have earned 10.25 continuing education credits in **business recruitment and retention** from NIU this past month
- Met with possible new restaurant owner that is looking at 2 properties in the downtown
- Planning has begun on the Property Tour that Jennifer Ganser and I will be hosting
  - 3 realtors have agreed to help
  - Funding from Realtor sponsors, Village of Lombard and Choose DuPage
- Met with possible new owner of existing business about grants, COD small business center.
- Spoke with Carrie and Carla who will be opening Drytini at 8 South Park (next to office) about their new business. Lease is signed and they move in March 1.
- Met with business owner about possibly moving into larger space.
- Spoke with owner of Old bank and he is working on financing
- Spoke with Prairie Food Co-op about downtown Lombard

## Membership

Membership push last year brought in From Jan 1 – March 4	\$1100
Membership push this year Jan 1 to March 5	\$2300

## Outreach

- Went to second chamber meeting about art and craft fair.
- Attended Chamber of Commerce State of the Village lunch with President Giagnorio as speaker
- Attended Village of Lombard open house about the Village's Comprehensive plan
- Worked with Healthy Lombard to be a pick-up place for their raffle prizes

## Other

Trustee Foltyniewicz asked me about video gaming and what the businesses thought, I talked to two and left messages for two.

I spoke with **John, the owner of Otto's**, and he has been hoping for three years to get video gaming in Lombard. He has been in business since 1985 on Crescent Ave (not in the TIF district) and the recession has hit him hard. He has done extensive research on the issue so he is prepared to move if the village approves it. I asked what he would do with the extra income stream and he would like to reinvest it in his business by adding new bathrooms. He would like to know when the village has any discussions on it so he can come.

I spoke with **Betty Schissler, the owner of Punky's**. Betty and her husband have owned the bar next to the metra station since the 1970's. She is not interested in them because she feels people only have so much disposable income and her bar may be negatively impacted.

I left messages for Mandy O'Neill from O'Neill's and Courtney and Ceasar from the Vino Cellar. I have no word yet.

The bartender from O'Neill's felt that Mandy would be open to video gaming.

I talked to Laura Lake, an employee at Vino's, Her boyfriend just completed his master's thesis on video gaming in Mount Prospect and I asked for a copy of the research.

The LTC promotions committee is working on the events for the year. Our first event will be Bunco night on April 19, 2014.

I will be taking a vacation the week of March 31.

All questions are welcome!

Sarah Richardt