

Commercial growth contributes to community development

During 2019, significant commercial development was initiated or completed throughout DeKalb County. Host communities, together with business and institutional developers, are commended for these projects that increase commercial services, support population growth and expand the tax base.

Meijer Stores is progressing on construction of a 159,000-square-foot supercenter in the city of Sycamore. The project is on a 31-acre site in the Sycamore Crossings development on Peace Road. Completion is projected for Spring 2020.

MorningStar Media Group has completed renovations to the 220 S. California St. building in downtown Sycamore. The building also houses the Coroco Coffee Roaster Collective, featuring hand-roasted craft coffees sourced from small farms throughout the world.

Chelsea McGhee Studios expanded to a new location at 942 W. State St. Space is available for corporate events, receptions and parties, as well as adult and youth art classes.

Cornerstone DeKalb is complete with full occupancy of the project's 51 furnished luxury units at the corner of Lincoln Highway and First Street in downtown DeKalb. The Tavern on Lincoln restaurant and pub opened to rave reviews, joining Barb City Bagels and DeKalb Nail Spa in filling



DCEDC VIEW

Paul Borek

out the ground-floor commercial units.

Construction of Plaza DeKalb on the corner of Lincoln Highway and Second Street is nearing completion. The four-story, mixed-use project will include 21 apartments and a Mediterranean specialty grocer on the ground level. Completion is scheduled for February. Jamrah opened its second DeKalb County location at the Plaza.

The Agora Tower project has begun with the demolition of the former Mooney building located east of Fourth Street, between Oak and Locust streets in DeKalb. The mixed-use development will include 94 high-end apartments with retail and office space on the ground floor.

Extensive renovations and the long-awaited addition of air conditioning are progressing at the Egyptian Theatre in downtown DeKalb. Year-round operation, enabled by the air conditioning, will help drive expanded programming.

Hometown Sports Bar & Grill expanded to an adjacent storefront on Lincoln Highway in creating a space called "Stage Left" to host live entertainment.

Mason Properties is building out

space at 1500 Sycamore Road for Mason Indoor Golf USA. The project will include indoor sports simulators along with pizza and beverages.

Aldi completed construction of a new expanded grocery store, and Planet Fitness established a health club.

Developer NewGen Assets is progressing with construction of the Home2 Suites by Hilton on Annie Glidden Road and Knolls Avenue. The 90-room extended-stay hotel is designed to serve business travel demand from corporations and institutions.

Dollar General completed construction of a new 10,500-square-foot store in Genoa. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is developing a training facility for electric utility lineman on Walnut Avenue. Smoking Grill & Pizzeria expanded in the shopping center on the corner of Routes 72 and 23. Gillerson's Gastro Diner opened in downtown Genoa. And the Genoa Food Hub opened in partnership with DeKalb County Community Gardens.

The Red Brick Inn Bar & Grill opened on Main Street in Kirkland.

Castle View Real Estate established an office on Main Street in Maple Park.

Emerald Butterfly, a gift and home specialty store, and the Shabbona Barber Shop opened on Route 30 in Shabbona.

A new Burger King restaurant was constructed on Route 34 in Sandwich.

Northern Illinois University remodeled the first floor of the Holmes Student Center in DeKalb. The project includes a Starbucks coffee shop, depot convenience store, remodeled Huskie Book Store, study lounge and collaborative workspaces.

Kishwaukee College completed remodeling of the Library and Academic Support Services Center in Malta, including space for tutoring, group study rooms and technology support within the library space.

Construction of a new breast health center at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital has been completed. The center includes state-of-the-art mammography, ultrasound, new breast health equipment, as well as diagnostic and staging areas.

Construction is progressing on the expansion of the DeKalb County Nursing & Rehab Center on Annie Glidden Road. A 15,000-square-foot transitional care unit and 18 new patient rooms are being constructed, along with the renovation of 15 existing rooms.

Family Service Agency doubled its space with the acquisition and renovation of the 1325 Sycamore Road Building in DeKalb.

• Paul Borek is executive director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corp.

SK Tools donates to Opportunity House



Photo provided

Employees of SK Tools LLC in Sycamore donated \$1,560 to Opportunity House on Dec. 10. The donated funds were the proceeds of a recent employee sale of SK branded apparel. Pictured are SK Tools team members. Opportunity House helps people with developmental disabilities work, live in homes of their choice and enjoy community life. For information about Opportunity House, visit ohinc.org.

Chamber of Commerce referral group donates to Northern Illinois Food Bank



Photo provided

The DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Referral Group recently donated \$745 to Northern Illinois Food Bank. The group wanted to further the efforts of the first annual Feed the Need campaign of chamber members 94.9 WDKB and MetroNet, which collected food and monetary donations for NIFB on Nov. 22 and 23.