

**Yorkville's
newest
additions . . .**



Stonefire, 2075 Marketview Dr., opened its doors to the public over the Labor Day weekend. The restaurant, featuring American cuisine, has a large menu and is open for lunch and dinner. For more information, call 630.553.4585.

Dr. Joseph Gruber and Dr. Dennis Kostal, DDS, who have spent 18 years and 33 years respectively providing dental services to Yorkville



residents, will be moving from their office at 606 Countryside Center to a much larger office space in their new brick prairie-style building at 302 E. Countryside Parkway. Two rental spaces are available. For more information, call 553.7073.



Stagecoach Crossing, located on Rt. 47 just south of Rt. 71, has completed construction of its first two buildings. West Suburban Bank, Ames Tool & Service, and Stacked Liquors & Deli are open for business, with four more stores still available for rental. Another 33,000-square-foot building will be under construction in the spring, and there are plans for two other buildings in the future. For information on rental, call 815.545.7253.

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Yorkville Economic Development Corporation



Yorkville gives warm welcome to Raging Waves Waterpark

Yorkville residents will be getting a 40% discount off of a season pass when the 43-acre Raging Waves Waterpark opens its doors to the public next Memorial Day at Rt. 47, south of Galena Road.

Another Yorkville bonus -- the Australian-themed park also will be hiring around 300 employees, from entry levels all the way to managerial positions, to help handle the

expected 3,000 daily attendees who will want to experience the 18 different water slides careening down from five different towers.

Randy Witt, president of Lundmark Group LLC, the developer/operator of the park, says this park is the fruition of a 15-year dream, and Yorkville's welcome couldn't have been warmer. "It's been an absolute pleasure and joy to work with the City staff. They've exhibited an incredible amount of professionalism. It's been nothing short of fantastic for us," Witt says.

A former race car driver, Witt said that he had thought race car driving would be his life career, but even though he achieved a measure of success at it, it still turned out to be a heavy drain on his resources. He began looking into other venues. He liked the idea of developing a water slide attraction, and after researching the recreational attractions available in the Chicago area, he decided to turn to a theme park.

Witt says Raging Waves will have as many as 10 major components, including a wave pool and a lazy river, all in a lavishly landscaped environment. He estimates that the park annually will use an amount of water equivalent to 34 single family homes' usage in one year, and adds that all the water will be recycled through holding tanks and eventually used for irrigation of park landscaping.

"My wife, Dawn, and my partner Scott Melby have been very supportive," Witt says. "We are so excited about this deal. We are going to be spending a lot of time in the Yorkville area. We want to be very active, very supportive of this community."

Sixth annual meeting

YEDC

Golden Arrow Awards



BlackStone Bar & Grill, owner Rino Dervishi

BlackStone Bar & Grill opened its doors for business in early December 2005 at Richard Marker Associates' Heartland Commercial Center. The restaurant has an inviting char-house atmosphere accented by a colorful bar. BlackStone's diverse menu provides a complete dining experience.



Culvers, owners Chris, Karen, Kim and Tom Blair

Culvers -- The Blair Family opened its Yorkville location on June 1. Culver's of Yorkville is the second restaurant location they own. The Blair family was recently recognized by Culver's Franchising System with the "Commitment to Excellence Award", after scoring the highest in the region when it came to operations, cleanliness, and quality.



Fox Hill Centre, developer Victoria Thomas

Fox Hill Centre, located at the southwest corner of Route 34 and Sycamore Road was developed by GCM Properties LLC. The center offers 24,000 square feet of retail and office space and is currently the home to "Dinner by Design" America's leading home meal prep kitchen. Additional businesses that will be opening very soon include "Smart Start" pre-kindergarten, and "Froots" healthy smoothies, salads and wraps.



Stagecoach Crossing Center, developers Sam and Larry Saravanos

Stagecoach Crossing Center located on Route 47 just south of Route 71 is a 10-acre project, which offers distinctive office, service, and retail opportunities. A total of five buildings will be on the site at final build out. Existing structures include an 11,000-square-foot building, which is the home to "Stacked Liquors & Butch's Prime Deli" and "Ames Taping Tools", and a 6,000-square-foot building, which is the home to "West Suburban Bank".



Stonefire, Pub Manager Lori Kieres

Stonefire Restaurant & Pub recently opened its doors Labor Day Weekend in Yorkville Crossing at Route 47 near Kennedy Road. The menu boasts extensive varieties of appetizers, sandwiches, soups, salads, pasta dishes, steaks, seafood and chops. The Stonefire caters to the business community with a private dining room and free wireless internet access.



U.S. Post Office, Yorkville Postmaster Irene Windett

Yorkville's new 26,000 square foot **United States Post Office** opened its doors at Countryside Parkway and McHugh Road on April 24. The facility handles the sorting of mail for the communities of Yorkville, Oswego and Sugar Grove. There are three retail sales counters, 788 post office boxes and 20 parcel lockers as well as passport processing available to provide superior customer service, at the facility.



Patrick Rea

Education is key to keeping competitive advantage

The focus of education in the United States needs to change; the Midwest's kindergarten through grade 12 education has to improve.

That's the message that guest speaker Patrick Rea brought to the YEDC's annual meeting held Oct. 9 at the Yorkville High School. Rea, the regional administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Midwest Region, told his audience that the Midwest has to wake up to the requirement for improved education to compete in a global economy.

Rea named four requirements for keeping competitive: the nation's knowledge and skills; the ability to control natural resources; the quality of a nation's legal system; and the nation's openness to international trade. The U.S. has three of the four, Rea said.

"Our weakness is education," Rea said. He added that the U.S. has to improve its students' non-routine cognitive skills, abstract reasoning, and problem-solving abilities. Community colleges can help by forming close partnerships with their local business communities to help provide a skilled workforce.

Rea said that on the baccalaureate level, the U.S. excels, having more than 90% of the world's top universities, but 50% of the researchers at those institutions do not hold U.S. citizenships. For now, these highly educated people are choosing to reside in the U.S., Rea said, but if our competitive advantage slips, they may choose instead to bring their skills back to their native countries.

"The illiterate of the 21st Century will be those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn, not those who cannot read or write," Rea said, quoting author Alvin Toffler. "This is the challenge for educators. Globalization is forcing us to look at things differently. There is no question that intellectual capital is our competitive advantage for the 21st Century."



The YEDC's annual meetings give its members the opportunity to recognize the partnerships that the YEDC relies upon to encourage economic development in the City of Yorkville. This year, 250 people attended. Each year the attendance continues to grow, indicating the strong support the community gives to the YEDC.

The YEDC annual meeting is a time for the organization to look back and recognize projects that were undertaken during the past 12 months, and to look forward into the upcoming year and anticipate the new projects that will begin in 2007 and beyond. It's a time when the YEDC membership, Board of Directors, and staff can reflect and be proud of all that Yorkville has accomplished.



For more information, check out our website at www.yedconline.org

Welcome Our Newest Members!

General Members

4 Seasons Landscaping Nursery & Supply Yard
Lakewood Homes
G.A. Blocker Grading Contractor, Inc.
Main Street Commercial Partners, LLC
Novak Construction
State Bank of Illinois
The National Bank

Associate Members

Aishling Obstetrics & Gynecology
Brummel Realty, LLC
MTG Land Management & Development, LLC
Raging Waves
Thomas Shea Properties
Washington River LLC

Director's Update

On Aug. 10, the YEDC took 60 people on three deluxe motor coach busses on a road trip to Miller Park in Milwaukee, where we saw the Cubs and the Brewers play baseball. Unfortunately, the Cubs lost, but we had a wonderful time.

Instead of the typical golf outing, the YEDC has chosen for the past five years to host an annual Cubs outing. We believe it is a more effective way to bring people together. We always have a deluxe private sky box, allowing attendees not only an opportunity to watch a Cubs game, but also to get to know each other and interface in a different setting.

Our guests are a combination of existing Yorkville business owners and developers, new or prospective business owners and developers, and City staff. They all have something in common -- an interest in Yorkville's economic well-being. I believe this is a very effective way of bringing people together. This year's trip was a really nice event, and it enabled our guests

to learn about our community in a social setting.

On Sept. 7 & 8, I was at the Hyatt Hotel on the Riverwalk in Chicago, attending the International Council of Shopping Centers 2006 Chicago Deal Making conference. This was the fifth year I have attended this event. I met with retailers and developers, both national and local, to promote projects happening in Yorkville at this time.



Lynn Dubajic being interviewed on Sept. 29 by Bob Costigan on Fox Valley Headliners.

--- Lynn Dubajic