

REPORT TO COUNCIL - MAY 15, 2017

ONLINE PRESENCE

- **City Website**
 - Pageviews YTD: 63,563
 - Unique Users YTD: 7,793
- **Facebook Page**
 - Likes: 1,850
 - Post Impressions YTD: 197,819

PRESENTATIONS ATTENDED

Growing Local Economies. Paul attended the “New Perspectives on Growing Local Economies” conference in DeKalb on April 3. The day-long event saw 200 economic and community developers from throughout the state come together for programs and discussion groups. The event was put on by NIU’s Center for Governmental Studies. The event was also the kick-off of the Center’s “Great Downtowns, Growing Cities” initiative.

Workforce Investment Board. Paul attended the quarterly Workforce Investment Board meeting, held this time in Galesburg at the Lake Story Pavilion. The focus of this meeting was youth education in the workforce, and the Galesburg Community Foundation presented on the Great Galesburg Shake - an event that allowed kids from 4th grade through 12th grade to learn soft skills such as handshakes, making eye contact, social graces, conversational engagement, confidence and a sense of humor.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Warren County CEO Program. The Warren County CEO Program board held a kick-off fundraising event at Market Alley Wines on April 6 (the event was co-sponsored by the Monmouth Business Council). The goal was to introduce the program to the business community and to engage them as investors, business mentors, class speakers and potential sites for class field trips. National Director for Entrepreneurship Education Cheryl Mitchell was in attendance as well.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

112 Bistro. 112 Bistro (to be located in the former Olivia’s building) plans to open in late May. The operation is funded by Josh Smith, and he has hired the former En Season executive chef to run the kitchen. The theme will be martinis and tapas (called “small plates” for a more midwestern feel).

Wicked Mic’s. Wicked Mic’s laser tag started operations this Thursday at the Freedom Roller Rink. This is high-end adult laser tag (the guns are about \$1,000 each) - it’s being marketed to adults (individual and corporate), college students and high-school age students. The business is a joint venture between father John Moles and his son Mitch, who did the business plan as part of his honors high school project. The family has recently relocated to Monmouth from the Chicago area.