

The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce News



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chamber Celebrates 100th Business to Open in Downtown Hot Springs since the 2014 Majestic Hotel Fire

(Hot Springs, AR) May 3, 2018 – On Thursday, the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 100th new business to open in downtown Hot Springs since the 2014 Majestic Hotel fire with a special ribbon cutting at Vault, the highly anticipated new downtown restaurant.

“One hundred new businesses opening in four years is an incredible milestone. It’s real proof of a very strong economy in downtown Hot Springs,” said Cole McCaskill, Vice President of Economic Development with the Hot Springs Metro Partnership.

“Even more impressive is that of the 100 new businesses, 90 of them are still open and 66 of them were net-new additions to downtown, meaning they occupied and opened in a retail space that was previously vacant as opposed to replacing a recently closed business.”

In addition to 100 new businesses since the fire, Downtown Hot Springs has seen 82 commercial property sales and more than \$80 million in investment.

The Majestic Hotel was one of Hot Springs’ oldest structures. It unfortunately that became dormant and fell into disrepair before catching fire in February 2014.

The loss of one of Hot Springs’ historic and iconic buildings mobilized city and business leaders into action to revitalize and preserve the downtown area. Downtown Hot Springs, “America’s First Resort,” is famous nationwide for its history and culture. It is important to the people of Hot Springs to see this area flourish.

In the weeks following the fire, civic groups formed the “Downtown Game Plan Task Force” comprised of community leaders and downtown stakeholders that sought to prevent future tragedies like the fire and to improve the course of downtown which had suffered from a lack of investment for several decades.

That group met publicly and privately for four months and ultimately released a set of recommendations for the progress of downtown. The HSMP adopted those

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recommendations as a strategy and hired McCaskill as downtown development director in June 2014.

Each year since the fire, downtown has experienced subsequent rising investment levels.

In 2015, downtown saw the nearly year-long master planning process from ideation to completion with the facilitation by Thomas P. Miller and Associates from Indianapolis.

That strategic planning process sought input from downtown business owners, Garland County residents and visitors for what they'd like to see in downtown. The Downtown Redevelopment Guide was published and its goals and strategies were adopted to provide a framework for growth and development for downtown by the City of Hot Springs and the HSMP.

The Chamber and HSMP look forward to future growth and expansion in the downtown area.

The 100 New Businesses Opened Downtown Since Majestic Fire:

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| 1. Kilwins Chocolates | 14. Evil-O Olive Oils |
| 2. Collective Coffee+Tea | 15. Café 135 |
| 3. Wolfheart Gallery | 16. 4D Adventure |
| 4. All Things Natural | 17. State & Pride Provisions Co. |
| 5. Render Creative Group | 18. Red Light Roastery |
| 6. Henderson State University- Hot Springs | 19. KUHS Community Radio |
| 7. Copper Penny Pub | 20. Mountain Valley Armory |
| 8. Oxy-Zen | 21. Red Sunflower Boutique |
| 9. Mountain's Edge (significant remodel and reopening) | 22. Hotel Hot Springs |
| 10. Bathhouse Row Winery | 23. Rock Paper Scissors Salon |
| 11. Tropical Winery | 24. Dakotas Hair Designs |
| 12. Deluca's Pizza | 25. Vina Morita (move and expansion) |
| 13. Air FX Heat & Air | 26. Gr8 Escapes Arkansas |
| | 27. Zoe's In The District |

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| 28. Gehrki Commercial Real Estate | 55. Pour Some Sugar on Me Sweet Shoppe |
| 29. Dapper & Debonair | 56. Downtowner Marketplace |
| 30. Rocket Fizz | 57. Direct Insurance |
| 31. The Civil War Museum West | 58. Revelation Teens |
| 32. Tosha Kitchen | 59. Whittington Gallery |
| 33. Escape Hot Springs | 60. Mountain Valley Armory (new construction & expansion) |
| 34. A Narrow Escape | 61. Ambrosia Bakery |
| 35. Magic Springs Retail Store | 62. State & Pride Provisions Co. (Doubled in Size) |
| 36. J.J.'s Peddie Cabs | 63. A Bite of Hot Springs |
| 37. Quarters Café | 64. Riley Art Glass Studio |
| 38. Brick City Pizza | 65. Beef Jerky Outlet |
| 39. Prohibition Press | 66. Odie & Tilly's Boutique |
| 40. Park Avenue Coin Shop | 67. Park Avenue Food Court/ Its Gud Fud |
| 41. Hot Springs Village Discovery Center | 68. Dame Fortune's Cottage Court |
| 42. Gypsy Girl | 69. Thai-Me and Argentinian Coffee |
| 43. Craft Beer Cellar | 70. Legoria's Rhythm and Rocks Jazz Bistro |
| 44. Kringles in the Park | 71. Plum & Pretty Boutique |
| 45. Maharaja Boutique | 72. Dogs on the Run- Hot Dog Vendor- Arlington Park |
| 46. Galaxy Connection | 73. The Loft Salon & Spa |
| 47. Spa City Cycling | 74. NU2U |
| 48. ESQ. Realty Group | 75. Wills Cinnamon Shop |
| 49. Crow Law Firm | 76. Roanoke Church Whittington |
| 50. Metaphysical Connection | 77. Lox Salon |
| 51. The Waters Hotel | 78. Home Instead |
| 52. The Avenue | |
| 53. Blush Boutique | |
| 54. Spa Souvenirs | |

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| 79. Jack Knife Barbershop | 91. TRex Fun Spot (new construction and expansion) |
| 80. Next Gen Tie-dyes & Apparel | 92. Grateful Head Pizza |
| 81. TLI Print- (Property Acquisition, Renovation and Expansion) | 93. Urban Living & Development |
| 82. Mirror, Mirror Salon | 94. Core Public House |
| 83. Belle of Hot Springs Retail Store | 95. Hot Springs Advertising |
| 84. Bubba Brews Spa City Taproom | 96. Healthy Connections Administration Office |
| 85. Maxwell Blade's Malco | 97. Majestic Bakery & Café |
| 86. Oddities Museum | 98. ParadICE Cream |
| 87. Culinary District Cafe | 99. Taylor's Lunchbox |
| 88. Handmade Holiday Shop | 100. Vault |
| 89. SQZBX | |
| 90. Park Avenue Parking Lot | |

The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce is Hot Springs' leading advocate and champion for business.

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