

# The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Chamber Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> 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 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:

1. Kilwins Chocolates	14. Evil-O Olive Oils
2. Kollective 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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