

STORIES TOUTING DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AND GROWTH

March 19, 2004 - Jbr. Sun - Title: **Permit decision prompts reactions from community**

Betty Shaw, president of the Downtown Jonesboro Association, talking about Piero's receiving alcohol permit, "I think long-term it's going to provide some stability (for downtown)." (Really?) 65 businesses leaving in 9 yrs. (one every 7 wks.) is real stability.

KAIT: - March 23, 2007 - Title: Jonesboro's Downtown Development Booming - ..."The charm of downtown is drawing a crowd."

Business owner: "I was worried at first that there might not be as much traffic down here as near the mall, but that's not the case. More people are starting to come downtown." (Really?) This business, Wilcoxson's, only stayed downtown about a year or so.

March 28, 2010 - Jbr. Sun - Title: **Additional businesses move downtown in 09**

M. G. Meyering, "Downtown continues to become the burgeoning spirit of entrepreneurs for Northeast Arkansas."

April 1, 2007 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: **Developers, businesses revitalize downtown** (Really?)

Brian Sneed, president of Downtown Jonesboro Association at the time of this article said the addition of Wilcoxson's & Brickhouse Grill has pumped new life into their efforts to revitalize downtown. (Really?) Wilcoxson stayed about a year and moved. See prior article above.

April 2, 2007 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: **Downtown adding new businesses, residences**

Mayor Doug Formon said he believes downtown is starting to come out of its funk. (Really?)

Dan Johnson said he has no doubt that in 10 years downtown Jonesboro will be the place to be. (Really?)

Dan Johnson said "If you have a good product and a solid business plan, you can be extremely successful downtown. That's all it takes." Johnson said "Doug [Wilcoxson] is booming. (Really?) Wilcoxson's stayed about a year and moved as stated in the April 1 article above.

June 17, 2007 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: City's Downtown gets 'wow' factor - Subheading - "Realtor says properties selling quickly." (Really?) Of 7 businesses in this story that signed long-term leases, all were gone in a very short time. At least one was gone in 6 months.

Dec. 7, 2007 - Jonesboro Sun - Title unknown / Subtitle **half way through article: Downtown bustling**

New businesses sprouted up all over the city's downtown sector this past year, including Main Street Deli, Brickhouse, Off Rodeo Drive, Drummer's Pad, Bodacious Salon, Crossroads, and Adams Florist and the new Main Street Pizza, among several others. (Really?) All these businesses are gone from downtown with the one exception of Brickhouse.

Subtitle farther down in article: **Young excited:** Bringing more housing to the sector gives Young has something else to smile about. He said it is another example of how downtown's **revitalization remains on the move.** (Really?)

I have to agree with Young, it does remain on the move, businesses move out of "downtown" as fast as they move in.

June 7, 2008 - Title: **City takes steps to join program**

Subtitle: Downtown group wants to become Main St. City / Jonesboro compared to New Orleans Bourbon St., Montreal, Memphis Beale St. / New York City's Greenwich Village / Las Vegas Freemont Street

FAILURES: Downtown Farmers Market **FAILED** to materialize / Rockin On The Ridge - **FAILED** / Main St. City program - **FAILED**

Sept. 14, 2008 - Title: **Good Times**

Subtitle: **Jonesboro's downtown sees growth**

Subtitle: **DOWNTOWN: Main Street, surrounding area full of activity** (Really?) (The activity is businesses coming and **going just as quickly as they came.**)

Jonesboro Downtown compared to Memphis Beale St. / New Orleans Bourbon Street / New York City's Greenwich Village / Las Vegas Freemont Street failed to materialize:

X April 29, 2009 - Title: **Officials: Downtown Jonesboro needs more retail**

Officials of Main Street Arkansas & Arkansas Historic Preservation Program said, "Jonesboro's historic downtown business district needs more retail stores." Mark Miller, small business consultant with Main Street Arkansas noted a good selection of restaurants and a lot of activity in the historic district. **"Retail will follow," he said. (Really? See list of closings below or above.)**

Sept. 11, 2009 - Jbr. Sun - Title: **Businessman wants musicians, artists, mimes in Jonesboro**

Kent Arnold, "There's more foot traffic than I've ever seen," (About only foot traffic going to restaurants.)

JONESBORO - In the last year and a half, there have been a number of changes to Downtown Jonesboro, the area of the city that continues to prove a lively entertainment and **shopping** district. (Really? Shop where? There were only about 2 or 3 actual retail shops there. As shown in list, almost all have gone since they came.)

MG Meyering, representing the Downtown Jonesboro Association said, "Downtown continues to become the burgeoning spirit of entrepreneurs for Northeast Arkansas." (Jonesboro compared to New Orleans, New York and Montreal)

October, 2009 - KAIT - Title: Jonesboro's Main Street thriving

Main Street is **booming** with new businesses... With all these additions, it's easy to forget the nation is in the middle of a recession. / This charming atmosphere is in **high demand**. The foot traffic has increased in the past few years, leading many businesses to prosper. (Really?) If they are prospering so much, why don't they stay. (65 leaving in past 9 years?)

OCCASIONS MAGAZINE:

November, 2009 - Title: VISIONARY Arnold seeks to create urban park setting

Closing Main & rerouting traffic to create urban park setting - **FAILED**

Sept. 23, 2009 - Jbr. Sun - Title: Downtown ready for redirection of Main St. Traffic on Thursday

The primary purpose of re-direction traffic away from Main St. is to create a more pedestrian-friendly zone. Arnold maintained. However, a secondary reason is so that street performers and artists can perform in the downtown entertainment district.

Arnold said that by creating a pedestrian friendly zone Jonesboro can have a park setting where patrons may visit with family, friends and neighbors and create community. "I've received a tremendous positive response," he said.

Street Artist Program FAILED to happen

January 7, 2010 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: Downtown group wants to add members, expand promotions

Piero Trimarchi, "We keep growing and opening more businesses," but no money is coming into the organization (Downtown Jonesboro Association) he said. (Really?) How would the businesses have any money to give when they fail so often and spend their money opening up and then closing back down and moving out as fast as they move in.

March 28, 2010 - Title: Additional businesses move downtown in 09

OCCASIONS MAGAZINE

June 2011 - Title: The DOWNTOWN Jonesboro Association has Main Street in Mind

These days, business is **booming** in Downtown Jonesboro. The sidewalks are **bustling**, the lofts are occupied and the event calendar is filled with everything from live music to **grand openings** -but that wasn't always the case. (Really?) If there are grand openings continually it is because businesses come and GO every 6 OR 7 weeks.

.... Downtown Jonesboro is **thriving economically**...(Really? The evidence shows otherwise.)

July 6, 2011 - KAIT 8 - Title: More businesses coming to Downtown Jonesboro

2011 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: Downtown revitalization continues even though organization on hiatus

In the meantime, businesses are **popping up** like spring dandelions in the downtown district. (Really?) They are **popping down** just as fast as they are "popping up".

IS DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION A SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

Aug. 21, 2011 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: Downtown District thriving after 10 years

Kent Arnold: "It takes 10 years to become an overnight success, and for the downtown district this is the 10th year."

Downtown Jonesboro has created a pedestrian community in the city that is unparalleled." (Really?)

THE TRUTH

There is almost no foot traffic other than that going to restaurants because there are almost no retail shops. One business owner who opened in 2011 only stayed a few months because "he couldn't get enough families downtown."

And

66 businesses have left this area in 9 years averaging one every 7 weeks.

And yet the hype stories keep coming like these below.

March 25, 2012 - Title: Downtown comes alive / Subtitle: New restaurants, other businesses set up shop.

Nov. 11, 2012 - Jonesboro Sun - Title: Booming downtown gets busier

3rd Paragraph: Now, it's booming and becoming a destination, (Kent Arnold)

4th Paragraph: Downtown is really exploding.... (Kent Arnold)

Businesses with alcohol highlighted**since Alcohol Introduced in May 2004***(One leaving every 7 weeks on the average)***65 Businesses Closed or Moved**

1. Adams Florist - **closed**
2. Art & Soul for Kids - **closed**
3. Art World Studio & Gallery - **closed or moved**
4. Bank of America - **moved 2010**
5. Bodacious Salon - **closed or moved**
6. Challenger Studio - **moved**
7. Crafters Gallery - **closed or moved**
8. D. & J. Computing - **moved**
9. Dian's Fabrics - **moved back to Paragould**
10. El Matador (Julio's) **closed**
11. Eclectic Collections - ?
12. Eye Speak - ?
13. Employment Solutions - ?
14. Green Shutters - **moved**
15. Guit Down Music Store - **moved**
16. Harris Furniture - **moved**
17. **Joe's Market - closed**
18. Jonesboro Photographry - ?
19. La Boutique Panache - ?
20. Ladida (Kids Clothing) - ?
21. Main Street Frames - **moved** to South West. Dr.
(Was next to Jonesboro Blue Print)
22. Main Street Pizza - **closed**
23. Midsouth Recruitiing - ?
24. New Berry Real-estate - ?
25. Niche Publications -?
26. Off Rodeo Drive - **moved ?**
27. Pagan's Jewelery - **moved**
28. Portraits Forever - **closed**
29. POSH (Specialty Clothing) - **closed or moved**
30. Red Hat Antiques - **closed or moved**
31. **Sheffield's - closed**
32. St. Pierre's Flower Shop - **closed**
33. The Drummer's Pad - **closed**

34. Windsor Health Group - **moved**
35. 302 or 303 Studio - **closed**
36. Windows Restaurant on Church - **closed**
37. Battens Bakery on Church - **closed**
38. **Wilcoxson Kid's Place - moved in 2010**
39. 2 Sisters Café - **closed**
40. Daily Grind - **closed**
41. Cranberry Merchant (Deli) - **closed**
42. Interiors by Design
43. Julianna's Day Spa

Closed or moved from Main in 2011

1. A's Fish House - **closed**
2. Epiphanies Gallery - ?
3. Jonesboro Blue Print - **moved**
4. Main Street Deli - **closed**
5. Osage Real Estate - **moved or closed**
6. All About Scrubbs - Union St. - **moved**
7. Sookies Gluten Free Restaurant - **closed**
8. Subway Sandwiches - **closed**
9. Edward Jones - **moved**
10. Ken's Photography
11. Steven's Inc. financial services - **moved**
13. YoLo Yogurt - **closed**
14. Backyard Signs - moved
15. B-Lak Logistic Services, Inc. - moved

Closed or moved from downtown in 2012

1. Benchmark Publishing - selling building May 2012
2. Sai Thai **moved** about March or April 2012
3. Haag - Brown Realtors - moved
4. Emerson Ambulance - moved
5. Benchmark Publishing - closed
6. Piero's / Vox 306 - closed
7. Napoli's - closed
8. The Title Company - closed

Businesses Moved to Main Street (Downtown) Recently or Scheduled to Come

Came to Main

1. Omar's - late 2011
2. Skinny J's - mid 2011
3. Sam Jones IV - ?
4. Jeff Schriber, Attorney
5. Captured by Cottingham Photography - ?
6. Cregeen's - 2011
7. Sean Shrum Art Gallery - 2009

8. Iberia Bank - late 2011
9. NAI Halsey Real Estate Office
10. CUSI (Continental Utility Solutions Inc.)
11. Kimono Restaurant - opened around May 2012
12. Veno's Pizza opened early October, 2012

Businesses Coming Soon to Main Street

2. Bennigan's - working on the building.