



# WILDWOOD

## Economic Development Committee July 19, 2023 Meeting Business News and Updates

### Business Openings:

- **No New Openings:** There have been no new openings since the last Economic Development Committee meeting in June.

### Business Closures:

- **Vittoria:** Vittoria (16524 Manchester Rd) officially closed on July 2, 2023. The owner of Vittoria, Bill Green, determined that he did not have enough time to run the business while undertaking a new project.

### Other Business Activity:

- **Lucky Dog Central** (16917 Manchester Rd): The owners of Lucky Dog Central plan to re-open their business in the next two months. They have updated the properties, electrical wiring, HVAC system, and plumbing. They are working to get approval from St. Louis County to close in the walls to separate the café from the pet supply store.
- **Emily Lucarz Photography, LLC (17195 New College Ave):** Emily Lucarz Photography, LLC, is working on the interior of their newly leased space, and they are planning to open by the end of August 2023.
- **2612 East Ave:** Kathleen Lott and her husband are planning to open a fine home furnishings & décor store at 2612 East Ave. They plan on selling seasonal décor along with providing interior design services. More info to come.
- **Home-Based Business Exposition:** The City held its first home-based business exposition on July 15, 2023. The event took place alongside the Farmers Market. Unfortunately, the City only had three businesses sign up for the event.
- **Wildwood Business Forum:** The City hosted its third Wildwood Business Forum on July 13, 2023. The presentation included information on the Biking and Walking Benefits Program, temporary signage, and Celebrate Wildwood sponsorship opportunities. Attendance was down slightly from the April forum. There were around 13 businesses in attendance.
- **Benedetto's on Main** (16721 Main St) is still looking for individuals to work as sous chef, prep cooks, line cooks, or dishwashers. Benedetto's is open Tuesday – Saturday. They offer full-time or part-time employment. Benedetto's is overhauling its entire kitchen staff, so they will temporarily be limited to bar seating only. Benedetto's has hired a new Executive Chef, Michael Padilla. Benedetto's has added some new items to their menu.

- **16590 Manchester Rd (old Jack in the Box property):** Gorjian Acquisitions has removed L3 Corporation as the broker for the property located at 16590 Manchester Rd. The Department believes that the prospective buyer decided to back out of purchasing the property.
- **2675 Westglen Farms Dr (Simmons Bank Building):** Spirit Bank signed a purchase agreement for the property located at 2675 Westglen Farms Dr, but they are waiting for the current owner to finalize the agreement. Currently, Edward Jones has a lease within the building until 2026. If the agreement is finalized, Spirit Bank will be opening a brick-and-mortar bank specializing in small business loans.

#### **Business Events:**

- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:** The City will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for Tresses by Jess Salon located at 16451 Village Plaza View Dr on Friday, August 4, 2023, at 4:00pm.
- **Fall Festival:** Passiglia's Landscape, Nursery & Garden Center (1855 Hwy 109) will be hosting their annual "Fall Festival" on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- **Customer Appreciation Day BBQ:** Fick Supply Service Inc (501 N. Eatherton Rd) will host their annual "Customer Appreciation Day BBQ" on September 22, 2023, from 11:00am to 2:00pm.
- **Wildwood Business Forum:** The City of Wildwood will be hosting its fourth business forum on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 7:30am to 8:30am. The forum will take place at City Hall within the Community Room. This will be the final business forum of the year.