

Economic Development: Community

Highland continues to make positive strides in a post-pandemic economy

Highland continues to make positive strides in development as it navigates forward in a post-pandemic economy. The community known for its many festivals and homegrown businesses has continued to build on its successes.

The area where this progress is most evident is at the heart of the community in the City’s downtown square. Serving as staging for many of the community’s events and festivals, the square is experiencing a major revitalization, seeing many of its historic buildings being redeveloped, making it a prime destination for new retail and dining options. On the heels of Schlafly Highland Square brewpub’s opening, subsequent projects have either commenced or been completed in the past year.

These projects include the proposed redevelopments of square buildings that once housed Highland Journal Printing, Marx Brothers Restaurant & Lounge, and the Eagle Inn Apartments, among



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others. After purchasing and renovating the building that was once Marx Brothers, Tullaghan’s Irish Pub opened in November and has quickly become a favorite of locals and visitors. The City’s Façade Program, established in 2021, has also been effective in spurring reinvestment and facilitating aesthetic improvements to the properties.

Additionally, the City of Highland completed a Business District Amend-

ment to include additional properties, which will provide more tools to attract development. Korte Meat Processing has purchased one of the district’s newly included parcels, a 40,000-square-foot facility formerly operated by Dow Jones as a printing facility, located at 915 Hemlock Street. The local company plans to utilize the additional space to expand on their meat processing capabilities and offer additional retail options.

Commercial development is not the only sector with major projects on the horizon. School officials in Highland were approved for a \$40 million bond issuance to construct a new primary school to be built on the southern edge of the municipality. The project will result in a new 86,350-square-foot facility to house Kindergarten through second grade students.

Finally, Highland continues its efforts to upgrade its infrastructure to better support its businesses and residents. The Sursee- Aviston Transmission Project is a collaboration between the City and Ameren to construct a new 15 mile 138 kV transmission line, connecting the existing Aviston substation to a new substation to be located just outside of Highland’s corporate limits. The project will allow for improved reliability, resiliency and continued growth for Highland and the surrounding areas. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2025.

Belleville embarks on new Economic Development Strategy – focusing on what makes Belleville the perfect place for new growth

The City of Belleville, Illinois, is seeking partners for our new Economic Development strategic plan. We hope that budding entrepreneurs and established businesses will seek information about our new short-term implementation action plan, thrusting us into the forefront of the economic growth our businesses and residents want to see. This strategic plan will consist of two main components: the City’s strategic vision and the new action plan. Belleville’s strategic vision document will establish an economic baseline, market context, and a clear vision including overarching economic goals and objectives. The action plan will outline the immediate actions necessary to implement our new, strategic vision. Both planned components will

be based upon quantitative evidence received from data portals available to our Consultant, and the City of Belleville, via focused analytical studies by the Consultant, as well as qualitative data gathered from community outreach efforts, SWOT analysis, and additional case studies. Belleville’s new action plan will provide the means by which programs and projects will push the goals of our strategic vision forward. While the strategic vision will have a five-to-seven-year outlook, this action plan will focus on the immediate actions that must take place within the next few years for the City of Belleville, to become the new leader in economic stability for our area, and we welcome you to join us and become a part of our Great. Big. Small Town.

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The Village of Glen Carbon: Poised for Prosperity

The Village of Glen Carbon is a wonderful community in a prime location that offers restaurant options, shopping and more. With top-notch schools and a booming business profile, the Village also offers plenty of parks and trails to enjoy. An easy commute to downtown St. Louis, residents can experience a mix of historical neighborhoods and new developments that creates an inviting community for the diverse tastes of homeowners.

Extremely livable and poised for continued prosperity, the Village of Glen Carbon is also a place rooted in history. Once a coal mining town, the Village became home to many cultures and ethnicities, with generations of families still living where their ancestors first settled. Today, Glen Carbon appeals to a wide variety of residents, from young professionals to retirees, and offers businesses of all sizes opportunity for growth and success.

2023 marks continued growth for Glen Carbon as Orchard Town Center and Meridian Plaza attracts new businesses to the area. With a nice mix of residential developments and shopping, both business

Rooted in history and poised for prosperity, the Village of Glen Carbon is a wonderful community in a prime location for your home or business.

Contact Jamie Bowden, Village Administrator, to learn more.

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districts will offer an even greater reason to “live here/shop here”, offering almost 100 acres of prime development space. Beyond the business districts, the Village of Glen Carbon has beautiful parks and trails connecting many of its neighborhoods. An updated Parks and Trails Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan is under review to assess its current outdoor recreation needs and analyze



an approach for the future. Public input from the community will be encouraged and funding will be designated for the updated plan, creating yet another reason to embrace all the Village has to offer. Engineering is also underway for a new water plant for the Village. Until its completion, upgrades are being made to its current system, including auto-flushers in certain areas to help

distribute disinfectant thoroughly. Other infrastructure improvements include road updates in various neighborhoods using available funding. On highway 159 and Glen Carbon Road, eastbound and southbound right turn lane improvements are also slated to be made in 2023 due to a CMAQ grant awarded to the Village. Even though the Village of Glen Carbon has a clear vision for future growth and prosperity, the community recognizes its significant past. Its rich heritage can be found along the Nickel Plate and Heritage Trails, where interpretive signs are posted indicating each location’s historical relevance. The Heritage Museum on School Street is filled with exhibits and artifacts that span centuries and the Yanda Log Cabin was spared from demolition and later refurbished by a group of volunteers looking to preserve a part of Glen Carbon’s history. For generations, people that call Glen Carbon “home” know that the Village is a place where history is revered, neighbors become friends, and memories are made.