



How the City Supports and Encourages Business

- For many years, the City has provided thousands of dollars annually to the Main Street Program, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Development Finance Corporation for business support, recruitment, and community business enhancement.
- The City Redevelopment Agency has budgeted \$150,000 annually for façade improvements grants for local businesses. The program has existed since 1992 and has funded over 100 projects.
- The Redevelopment Agency recently established a "Business Improvement Program" to provide low interest loans for business infrastructure improvement such as fire suppression systems (sprinklers), grease traps, sewer lateral repairs/replacements, sidewalk repairs, street trees, seismic reinforcement, etc. \$150,000 was earmarked for the first year of the program.
- The Redevelopment Agency has provided \$125,000 thus far to the Solar Living Institute to partnership on the Green Works Program (solar voltaic installation training). 85% of the students have come from outside the area and a few from other countries. There have been thousands of dollars spent in the City limits by students on lodging, restaurants, and retail purchases. Many students indicate that they would recommend Ukiah to friends and families as a place to visit. Overall, 30% of the students have found employment.
- The City and Redevelopment Agency has spent a considerable amount of money and Staff time over the past two years on the Courthouse relocation project to keep the Courthouse in the downtown. The City recognizes how important the courthouse is to downtown businesses and our economic vitality.
- The City issued 127 business licenses for NEW businesses (not relocations or renewals) between January 2010 and October 2010 . 96% issued over-the-counter with no Planning Commission or Zoning Administrator review. License applications indicate an estimated 129 new jobs (retail, restaurants, professional services, massage therapists, consultants, home occupations, child care facilities, etc.).
- The City has worked hard over the past few years to update the zoning regulations for the downtown and Perkins Street corridor that will provide more certainty, less bureaucracy, and a clearer process for new businesses and development. Adoption is expected in 2011.
- During the past 15 years, the Planning Commission has conducted approximately 300 meetings. An estimated 200+ development projects have been considered and acted on by the Commission during these meetings. Only 1 project has been denied (Safeway Gas Station) after broad public and neighboring business opposition were expressed.
- The City recently received \$800,000 in Federal and State housing monies that fund our First Time Home Buyer's and Housing Rehabilitation Programs, which directly translates into a real economic stimulus and benefit for our community, local contractors, real estate companies, and businesses.
- The City recently approved a new Streetscape Plan for State Street in the heart of the downtown that will make it safer, more attractive, and pedestrian friendly. The City is working hard to find grant funding to construct the improvements.
- The City routinely co-sponsors many major events that contribute significantly to the local economy, such as the PumpkinFest, Babe Ruth Regional Baseball Tournament, Sunday Concerts in the Park, Fabulous Flashback Car Show, A Taste of Downtown, Moonlight Movie Madness, Comedy Alley, and others. (Page 2 →)



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PAGE 2

- The City recently established the *Revitalization Business Investment and Lending Development in Ukiah (ReBILD) Program* that will provide below market interest rate loans to local Ukiah businesses for working capital, purchasing inventory, equipment and furniture, and acquiring property. The purpose is to spark the creation and/or retention of jobs. Funding comes from State Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) the City secured.
- The City and City Redevelopment Agency have used grant funding and other sources to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars into public infrastructure improvements over the past five years to ensure that the service needs of our residents and businesses are available now and into the future.
- With the guidance of a City Council Ad-Hoc Committee and the participation of the Staff Building Permit Review Group, the City is reviewing the Building and Planning Permit review processes and procedures. We are exploring ways to improve customer service, provide more certainty, make the processes clearer, and expedite the issuance of the permits.
- The City recently received a \$600,000 grant to construct a multi-use trail (biking, walking, running, rollerblading, etc.) along the railroad right-of-way through the downtown from Gobbi Street to Clara Avenue. An additional \$90,000 in grant funding is anticipated to fund engineering costs. The trail will bring people into the downtown, who may shop at stores, eat in our restaurants, and visit local attractions. The trail could be used for special events such as running and biking competitions that would enhance our local tourism industry. The vision is for the trail to extend from Hopland to Mendocino College.
- The City's Conference Center attracts events and attendees from all around the country, a service that boosts sales and occupancy at Ukiah's shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Ukiah is Business Friendly!