



Breakfast for Champions

The Partnership for Community Growth & Development hosted its first annual awards event called the “Breakfast for Champions”. The purpose of the event is to recognize the efforts of many to improve and enhance the economic health of the Liberty area. The Partnership presented Community Growth Awards to those who have invested in our area with new businesses, expanding businesses, new commercial development and public projects. The event was held at the Clubhouse at the Shoal Creek Country Club on November 29th.

The event was a great success having over 130 reservations from community leaders in the Liberty area. Announcing the awards were Partnership executive committee members John Engelmann and Tom Cole. Presenting the awards were Partnership chair Tony Sarver and Partnership treasurer Tom Atkins. The Community Growth Awards were split into three categories: individual business, public/institutional, and developer. The event was sponsored by the following businesses:

Aquila
Curry Investments
KCPL
M & I Bank
Realty Executives

Bank Liberty
Hallmark
Liberty Area Chamber
Missouri Gas Energy

Bank Midwest
J E Dunn
Logan & Associates
Pony Express Bank

Individual Business Category:

Accepting the award for Banta Corporation is Jerry Himmelberg.

Banta is a publications company that has been in Liberty since 1992, and has recently made a large investment on new equipment. They employ about 500 at their Liberty facility in Heartland Meadows.



Accepting the award for
Climate Control Heating &
Cooling is owner, David

Dennis. Climate Control is an HVAC repair company that has been serving Liberty since 1992. Relocating from the Triangle, they built a 4,800 square foot facility in Liberty thus retaining over 30 employees.





Accepting the award for Gary Crossley Ford is Todd Crossley. Gary Crossley Ford is located south of 152 Highway on Church Road with great visibility from I-35. The building came about as the Liberty Triangle redevelopment project continues.

Lisa Myers and Anna Margaret McGuire. Immacolata Manor is a residential home for women with developmental disabilities. They have recently built a new house to provide more room for their residents. Immacolata Manor employs just over 40 people.



Accepting the award for Immacolata Manor are



Accepting the award for Larry Brown Excavating are Adam Brown & Heather Wolesky. Larry Brown Excavating has been in the Liberty area since the 80's. They have recently built a new 11,987 square foot building in the Church Road Business Park on Kara Court. They do commercial and residential excavating.

Accepting the award for Metals USA is Lew Krausse. Metals USA is a flat rolled metal service center with a wide variety of uses that does business for several companies over four states. They have been in Liberty since 1998. They recently expanded their existing facility by 21,000 square feet in Heartland Meadows Industrial Park.





Accepting the award for Our Lady of Mercy Country Home is Debbie Trimmer. Our Lady of Mercy is a residential care facility which has around-the-clock care to those needing supervised care. Their expansion project replaced 44 older units with new rooms which include private baths. The 45,000 square foot renovation takes the facility from a Level I to Level II care center.

Accepting the award for United Rentals is Chuck Gallagher. This company moved to Liberty in 2005 bringing an equipment rental facility to the Liberty area. They

rent construction and home project equipment, large and small, to businesses and homeowners. Their 10,687 square foot building is located west of I-35 on Church Road.



Public/Institutional Category:



Accepting the award for the City of Liberty will be Mayor Bob Steinkamp and City Council members Coni Hadden and Nick King. We are recognizing the City for its investment for the Rush Creek Sewer project and for Phase 1 of South Liberty Parkway.

Accepting the award for Liberty Hospital is Joe Crossett. Liberty Hospital completed its

Medical Plaza East building in May of 2005. This 88,000 square foot state-of-the-art building provided for relocation of obstetrics as the Liberty Birthing Center. The addition of the facility also allowed the relocation of

the Therapeutic Radiologists and on site radiation oncology. The project also included a parking structure with close to 500 new parking spaces. As part of the project, Liberty Hospital completed the first phase of the City's Rush Creek Parkway which provided three-quarters of million dollars in public infrastructure.





Accepting the award for the Liberty School District are Superintendent Dr. Scott Taveau and school board member(s) Evan Tripp, Jeff Akright and Ken Robinson. The Liberty School District works on several building projects each year and the 2006 major project has been the Warren Hills Elementary School that is located on the north side of Liberty, near the site of the new high school.



Accepting the award for William Jewell College are President Dr. David Sallee and Dr. Chad Jolly. William Jewell College renovated and expanded 15,366 square feet of their Student Union in 2006. The Student Union now includes renovated meeting rooms, a commons area for the students, and a coffee shop, as well as the original cafeteria, bookstore, and mailroom. William Jewell has been in the community for over a 100 years and the new union is just one of many renovations to come in the future.

Developer Category:

Accepting the award for Billings Construction are Jeff & Paul Billings. Billings Construction has served Liberty since 1971. They recently built Liberty Bell Industrial Park, fronting S. 291 highway off of Southview Dr. The Park has several commercial buildings.





Accepting the award for Ferguson Properties is John Ferguson. Ferguson Properties built Barry Point Professional Office Park. This brand new 20,000 square foot building will serve as a professional office plaza, the first of five planned buildings, located in the high growth area along 152 Highway, Flintlock Road and I-35, as well as close proximity to the proposed Flintlock flyover.

Accepting the award for Robertson Companies is Jim Robertson. His company built Oakwood Business Park which includes a 16,000 square foot building. The Oakwood Business Park is a master-planned park at a location in Liberty which fronts I-35 and continues to grow.



Accepting the award for Star Development are Tom Sloan & John Davis. Star Development, a real estate firm serving the Liberty community for several years, invested in two projects we would like to recognize. The first is at 100 N. Main where the tornado hit in 2003 and the second in the Liberty Industrial Park.

Accepting the award for Zion Securities are Doug Holmberg and Don White. Infrastructure must be in place first in order for development to follow. Zion has led the way for growth making a significant investment in the infrastructure for the Shoal Creek Valley development area west of I-35 off of 152.



Award Winners Unable to Attend:

- Adams Muffler is a complete auto repair business has been a Liberty business since 1987. With the current redevelopment of the Liberty Triangle, Rick found a new location in Liberty in the Liberty Industrial Park. The new 3,600 square foot building will provide additional space with plans to expand the hours of the shop, consequently adding up to 2 new jobs. Retaining this business kept 5 jobs in Liberty.
- Aspen Veterinary Services will be receiving an award for their new business to the Liberty community, as of 2005. They built a 60,480 square foot building in Heartland Meadows Industrial Park. Aspen is an animal pharmaceutical distribution center, employing 10 people.
- Franklin 242 is a bed & breakfast new to the Liberty community in 2005. The owners transformed this historic Liberty home to become a bed & breakfast. It is located at 242 W. Franklin, just west of the square.
- Maaco has built a new body shop and warehouse in Liberty this year. They currently employ 10 people. Their 7,909 square foot body shop and 8,191 square foot warehouse are located north of the Liberty Triangle on the east side of 291.
- LTD has invested greatly to the Liberty Triangle development in land acquisition, infrastructure and new buildings. Several businesses have been recruited to the Triangle including Starbucks, Planet Sub, Texas Roadhouse, and Red Robin.
- Steve's Auto repair has been in Liberty since 1996 and has recently built a 5,400 square foot facility in the Church Road Business Park. They moved to this new facility during the Liberty Triangle redevelopment and currently employ 5 people.
- Value Place Hotel is now open. They are an extended stay hotel with studio rooms that have full kitchen services. This hotel has 42,984 square feet and visible from I-35 north off of Church Road.

For more information about this event or development in the Liberty area, call the Partnership at 816/407-9242.