



TOWN OF ERIE NEWS FLASH

News & Announcements

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Letter from the Mayor: Priorities for 2016

As Mayor, my priority for 2016 is to maintain our momentum in pursuing more commercial revenue opportunities for Erie. The new King Soopers Marketplace set to open later this year is a significant milestone, and it is important for us to build upon this success in order to continue to diversify our economic base, increase sales tax revenue and provide opportunities for us all to shop local.

First let me share with you the positive news about our overall sales tax revenue trend lines. We are currently estimating that our 2015 sales tax revenues from Erie-based businesses (this excludes auto sales tax) will show an increase of approximately 4% when compared to 2014 – that's good news. And this year, we are projecting that sales tax revenue will outpace 2015 by an additional 10%. This is even better news!

These revenue increases are no accident rather they are the results of two factors.

The first reason is, the Town has made a concerted effort to make Erie a more attractive place to do business. For example, the Historic Downtown Erie Business District is enjoying a revitalization once only dreamt about. In fact, Erie was honored with a Governor's Award recognizing our public/private partnership converting the old fire station into Echo Brewery. Soon, more businesses followed including: Industrial Revolution Brewing, Old Mine Cidery, Sweets Bakery, SnowBee PC, Nosh Sandwiches, Erie Farmers Market, 24 Carrot Bistro and Empanadas by Gaucho de Argentina. With the increase in its popularity, Historic Downtown Erie Business District sales tax revenues increased approximately 43% in 2014 and more than 75% in 2015!

The second reason is, so many of you accepted my challenge from one year ago to make a commitment to shopping local. When you buy local, more money is kept in Erie because businesses often purchase from other local businesses and service providers and/or farms. When you shop in Erie, you are simultaneously creating jobs, investing in neighborhood improvement and promoting community development. Successful Erie businesses attract other businesses creating a healthy business culture. Erie businesses support local non-profits which make our community



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better. Buying local conserves energy & resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and packaging. Thank you Erie!

I must point out that Historic Downtown is not the only economic zone that's been attracting new retail. Just drive a little further south on Briggs Street and visit Cristos Coffee and Beauty Blossom Med Spa who opened their doors last year. The Four Corners saw the expansion of County Line Liquors, the opening of JJ's Pub and will soon be home to Erie's first national quick service restaurant – Burger King. In the Erie Airpark, Erie Coffee Roasters started business in 2015 and plans are being considered for 120,000 square feet of commercial that could bring among other businesses a brewpub.

Some of the new businesses I have mentioned (and many more that I have not) I believe owe a degree of gratitude to our talented economic development team at Town Hall. These are the staff that assists new businesses with finding a location that is right for them and guiding them through the Town's various review and permitting processes. Over any given year businesses come and go and our staff does a commendable job at keeping the current supply of available retail spaces occupied.

While supporting small business is a must – we cannot ignore the significant efforts involved in attracting and supporting larger commercial/retail development such as the King Soopers Marketplace and Nine Mile Corner. Key to our efforts over the past years is participation in RECON - the International Council of Shopping Centers' global convention for the shopping center industry where we meet with national retailers such as restaurants (both sit down and quick serve), grocers, home goods and many more. This spring, our team will face even greater challenges at RECON as we promote available opportunities in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Top on the list in 2016 will be promoting available pad sites at the 20 acre King Soopers site on Highway 7 and working with our Nine Mile Corner development partner to attract the desired anchor tenant, restaurants and retail for the new 50 acre site located at the southeast corner of Highway 287 and Arapahoe. And let's not forget other retail development sites at the Four Corners, Erie Highlands, Erie Commons and I-25 & Erie Parkway.

We know an overwhelming amount of Erie residents support increasing retail opportunities in Erie; that's why participating in RECON is so important for our future.

The annually renewable sales tax revenues generated from retail helps the Town diversify our economy. As we start the New Year I will ask that our Board and Town Staff remain committed to our sustained, deliberate approach towards creating and supporting larger commercial/retail development. I also ask for your continued support in shopping local.

It is an honor to serve as your Mayor. Thank you!

Tina Harris, Mayor

View the online Mayor's Page [here](#).