



Rich Groves

IS NORTH KANSAS CITY A DESTINATION?

*Editorial by Richard P. Groves, Executive Director
of the North Kansas City Business Council*

What makes a city a destination?

My definition is that it has at least one captivating attraction that no other place can claim, or a cluster of attractions that make a visit to that city high on the bucket list of things to do.

Until Chicken N Pickle hatched other Chicken N Pickles in other cities, I think it would be safe to say that Chicken N Pickle was a one-of-a-kind captivating attraction that put North Kansas City on the map. I claim that more people can tell you exactly where Chicken N Pickle is than can tell you exactly where North Kansas City is. I also believe that our diverse collection of independent restaurants, brew pubs and entertainment attractions in a small hometown setting make North Kansas City a worthy destination.

We are one to two years away from having an even bigger attraction: The Rabbit hOle, now in the final stages of creation at 919 E 14th Ave. If that name is new to you, check out their

website at rabbitholekc.org. The Rabbit hOle arose from the imagination of Pete Cowdin and Debbie Pettid. With reinforcement by hundreds of enthusiastic donors, foundations and other financing and creative sources this amazing concept is about to come to life. Sometime in 2022. It will have huge appeal to “children of all ages”, drawing busloads of school children for field trips and families from far places to enjoy this unique attraction.

The list of 34 businesses featured at the North Kansas City Business Council September 23rd Investing in North Kansas City program shows evidence of an ever-increasing collection of independent destination attractions. Yes, I think we can say North Kansas City is a destination. To many, it is still a well-kept secret. To some, that is the way they would like to keep it. But for sustainability for these great destination attractions there may be a need to do more to “toot our own horn” about these attractions.

What do you think?



INVESTING IN NORTH KANSAS CITY

At Harrah's Nevada Ballroom on September 23rd thirty-four North Kansas City businesses, accounting for at least four hundred new jobs in North Kansas City, were honored by the North Kansas City Business Council for their recent investments. Among them were 18 new businesses to North Kansas City. Half were in the category of "Destination Attractions," adding to the allure of North Kansas City as a destination. A conservative estimate of the annual new payroll generated in North Kansas City by these businesses is \$16 million. In total, North Kansas City has over 900 businesses and more than 30,000 employees. Following is a list of the honored businesses:



The Iron District is one of several destination attractions making a significant new investment in North Kansas City.

New Businesses in North Kansas City

Destination Attraction businesses are highlighted in red.

- BesaMe Wellness – 1041 Burlington
- Cardinal Crest (custom home and commercial construction) - 1539 Swift
- Defense Logistics – 1520 Clay (within iWerx)
- Ecco Select – 1601 Iron
- El Canelo Mexican Restaurant – 1800 Swift
- Elite Roofing Supply – 1427 Howell
- F&M Mafco – 1627 Erie
- Flex Fitness – 1534 Burlington
- LC's on 18th Hamburgers & Pizza – 1825 Buchanan
- NKC Animal Clinic & Daycare – 1415 Burlington
- Outlaw Cigar – 309 E 10th Ave
- Paradise Productions – 104 W 10th Ave
- Post Coffee (within Cultivar KC) – 312 Armour
- Rise and Grind Bakery – 504 Armour
- Sail Away Wine – 309 Armour

- The Happy Greek – 119 Armour
- WERQ Fitness – 1534 Burlington

Businesses with Significant New Investments

- Nine Pumps, LLC – new owner, new building and pump shelter – 1001 Burlington
- Callsign Brewing – relocation and expansion – 1340 Burlington
- Chef Tito's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina – conversion of patio space – 1621 Swift
- Harrah's Casino – new private gaming room – One Riverboat Drive
- INDIGEX – relocation – 1520 Clay (within iWerx)
- KC Blueprint & Print Center – relocation and expansion – 29 W 14th Ave
- MAC Glass – refurbished building – 1349 Swift
- Modern Litho – 133 W 10th Ave – acquired Watkins Lithographic and relocated to the Watkins facility
- Precision Elements – expansion - 820 Atlantic

- PrimeTech International – 1329 Swift – relocation, expansion and major renovation
- ProPrint Digital – invested \$600 thousand in a new Kodak Digital Press
- Revlogical – relocation and expansion – 1331 Saline
- Safe Haven Security – sub-lease of 1900 Erie office tower to accommodate growth
- Streamline Print & Design – 716 E 16th Ave – invested in additional printing capabilities

- **The Iron District – 1599 Iron – additional retail tenants**
- Ultimate Services – relocation and expansion – 1441 Burlington
- **Whole Harvest – transformation from Fresh. Healthy. Fast. – 414 Armour**

Also recognized because of its sizeable investment over the past three years and its promise of greatness as a destination attraction when it opens next year is **The Rabbit hOle** at 919 E 14th Ave.

WHAT'S NEW IN NORTH KANSAS CITY

Projects currently in progress

- Complete renovation of the Life Unlimited building at 420 Armour Rd
- Construction of the 8-story apartment complex and parking garage at 18th and Swift
- Construction of Gallery Lofts apartments between the YMCA and Tay's Burger Shack
- Completion of The Rabbit hOle at 919 E 14th Ave for 2022 opening
- Screenland Armour Theatre will have all new seats, carpets, screens and the return of their glorious robot Roscoe.

Projects announced but not yet started

- Large apartment complex in the large block south of CityView Lofts
- Apartment complex by Milhaus in the area south of the Aloft and Element hotels and Diamond Conference Center on Diamond Parkway in One North
- "Market Fresh" concept grocery store in the area north of the Aloft and Element hotels and Diamond Conference Center on Diamond Parkway in One North
- Construction of Burlington Complete Streets project with new median, landscaping, sidewalks and dedicated bicycle track.

Still a mystery...

- What will be the next use of the former AMF ProBowl and Finnigan's Hall building and the large block of real estate between Erie and Howell? It has been purchased by a private party, bowling lanes and equipment have been removed, but no announced plans for it have yet emerged.
- When or how will that large group of decades-old grain silos along the railroad tracks and Bedford Ave be removed? They are unused, in significant decay and have been declared unsafe by the City.

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NEW MEMBERS

Defense Logistics, LLC

Elite Roofing Supply

Paradise Productions KC, LLC

Pinnacle Planning

Precision Elements, LLC

PrimeTech International, Inc.

TNC Community

Vanguard Business Services

COMING EVENTS

First Friday Coffee

October 1 – Ecco Select, 1601 Iron

October Membership Luncheon

Thursday, October 28 – Harrah's
"The State of the City" report

A Spooky Snake Saturday Street Festival

walk-through stationary parade
Saturday, October 23

First Friday Coffee

November 5

November Membership Luncheon

Thursday, November 18 – Harrah's

Winter Wonderland

business-sponsored Christmas Trees
throughout downtown during December

The Big Event Holiday Reception & Online Auction

Thursday, December 2

