

BTN Business Briefs: Quick Updates on Our Neighborhood Businesses

JOHN BARTH
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COSTUMES BY MARGIE UPDATE

Costumes by Margie has made some recent improvements, and owner Cheryl Harmon reports that her shop's refreshed look has already brought complements. In considering the new look Cheryl says that "first impressions have an impact on how we are perceived and we felt it was necessary to give a good one of our business!" Anyone walking by the shop will quickly notice the new sign and fresh paint at Cos-
tumes by Margie. In addition, Cheryl reports that she will be making some additional interior improvements over the next several months including replacing the carpet and

painting. In other good news, Cheryl reports that, even with the sluggish economy, Cos-
tumes by Margie managed to break even as costume shops across the nation have been closing.

Indianapolis will be host this year to the National Cos-
tumers Association Convention held in July, and Cheryl expects fellow costumers to visit Costumes by Margie to network. When asked how she manages to make her business such a success in our current economic environment, she says, "Successfully operating a small business is hard work, because I personally oversee every aspect of it. But, I love what I do and find it very rewarding!" Please support Cheryl and her long-time Butler-Tarkington business: Costumes by Margie.



JOHN BARTH

Costumes by Margie has a bright new coat of paint!

FLYING CUPCAKE UPDATE

Butler-Tarkington's Fly-
ing Cupcake bakery, the first cupcake bakery to set up shop in Indianapolis, is expanding and adding a new location. The new shop is located in

the heart of downtown's Chatham Arch neighborhood at 715 Massachusetts Avenue. Flying Cupcake owner Kate Bova reports that the new shop will be open in early
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PHOTO BY JOHN BARTH

Flying Cupcake Expanding; 38th & Ill. Improving

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March and will feature the same cupcakes, treats, and feel of the Butler Tarkington parent store (5617 North Illinois Street). Kate selected the location for the second shop because "It has a similar feel to the Illinois Street store—there is strong support from the community and a distinct neighborhood energy." The new shop will have two display cases, allowing even more varieties of cupcakes and candy (including cupcake truffles in flavors such as Red Velvet, Chocolate Peanut Butter, and S'Mores) to be displayed. Please support this great local business as it expands from its roots in our neighborhood.

It is exciting that new businesses and new types of businesses are growing and thriving in and around our neighborhood. Please join me in congratulating ES on their first five years.

NORTH UMC ACQUIRES BUILDINGS ON ILLINOIS ST.

The storefronts on the east side of Illinois Street just north of 38th Street are deserted, except for the Ace Hardware Store. It's staying. However, the hat shop has moved across the street and the other businesses have either closed or moved elsewhere.

The vacant storefronts along there have problems with mold, asbestos and other biohazard considerations that make them unsuitable for continued use. North United Methodist Church is purchasing the property and Dave Damin of North Church says the buildings are being demolished. The church is working with IDEM and an environmental engineering company to ensure that the demolition and grade work is compliant with applicable codes and future use.

North Church will be using the space for additional parking in the immediate future. The church does not yet have a timetable for landscaping and paving (shown in conceptual plan), let alone a long term plan for the site. They are coordinating with the HARMONI Project, which includes revitalization of this section of Illinois Street.

Editor in Chief Carol Caldwell contributed to the North UMC portion of this article.

ENGAGING SOLUTIONS UPDATE

Located across the street from the official boundaries of the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood is a thriving business that you may not know is there. Located at 3965 North Meridian Street, Engaging Solutions (ES) is a management consulting firm doing work such as fiscal management, planning and community outreach, and fund development.

Founded on Martin Luther King Day in 2005, ES just celebrated its 5th anniversary after serving important roles in such projects as the Combined Sewer Overflow Program for the City of Indianapolis and the Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indianapolis Convention Center Expansion for the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority.



JOHN BARTH (TOP & CENTER), NORTH UMC (BOTTOM)

Engaging Solutions continues to thrive at 39th & Meridian Street (top). North UMC has acquired properties on Illinois near 38th Street (center) to be redeveloped (bottom).

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