



VILLAGE OF ELIZABETH

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ELIZABETH LOGS ALL-TIME RECORD SALES YEAR: THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

For Immediate Release

Elizabeth, Illinois, (Special), Retail Sales numbers recently released by the State show that the Village of Elizabeth did a record \$13,427,945 in retail business last year(2017), increasing sales over 2016 by 18.4%.

More importantly, the amount of business surpassed the 15-year-old All-Time previous Elizabeth record of \$12,048,973 set in 2003 by 11%, according to Village President Mike Dittmar.

Additionally, Dittmar explained, the Village's BBD, which is a tourist based tax on goods, increased by an amazing 31% over 2016.

"We have concentrated on GROWTH through Economic Development for the Village the past three years and this is a real indication that the planning and program execution is paying off," Dittmar said in announcing the record numbers.

"Our team includes the Village Board, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Committee, and our Economic Development Consultant, and they really are doing the job."

Recent growth indicators include the additions of a "Dollar General", an FS Gas and Convenience Station, and the main Street store 'Dejawood"; reopening under new found management of three very popular restaurants- Shark's, now Cajun Jack's, E-Town and Small Town Saloon; and addition of new businesses Galena Jeep Adventures and Dittmar Orchard Station.

The Village also annexed additional land east of Elizabeth that is immediately adjacent to Route 20, and the Growth continues in 2018 with the announced addition on Main Street of a Women and Children's Boutique, the opening of a Main Street Tele Pharmacy, and the planned shift of the Jo Daviess County Health Department to the Village in October.

Among the successful 2017 initiatives were the Chamber's programs to repopulate Main Street, aiding in bringing Fiber to the Village, and the presentation of a variety of special events that drew record attendance.

The Economic Development Committee worked to gain the Tele Pharmacy, and supported and integrated with the Chamber programs.

The Economic Development consultant prepared the Village's 2017, and now 2018, Economic Development Marketing Plans with the Mayor and the Village Board, established and executed a multi-release public relations program, and helped update the Village's website, including the addition of four broadcast quality videos.

"Elizabeth celebrates its 150 Anniversary this year ," Dittmar said in announcing the good news. "We had a great 2017, and today we have a great team in place to "Grow Elizabeth" for the next 150 years."

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