



Downtown Member, Development and Retail News

Retail News

Now Open

Gallery Grill, formerly Gallery Sandwiche Shoppe, has recently re-opened under new management at 13 W. Centre St, across from The Walters. The newly-renovated restaurant will be serving a similar menu of sandwiches, subs, salads and classic cafe and deli items.

Max's Empanadas is now open at 313 S. High St in Little Italy. The new deli-style cafe and carryout offers an array of empanadas, paninis, salads, and pastries.

PNC Bank has opened a new green, LEED certified bank branch at 426 W. Baltimore St.

Sofi's Crepes at 333 N. Charles St has added breakfast to its menu of sweet and savory crepes. The eat-in and take-out restaurant will now be open from 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., and will add a variety of breakfast crepes, including sausage or bacon with egg and cheese, ham and maple syrup, and blueberries and maple syrup.

Coming Soon

Back Alley Jazz will open in the 1100 block of W. Baltimore St ("1130 Jazz Alley") next month. This new restaurant and club will bring fine dining, drinks, and renowned jazz acts to Hollins Market, six nights a week.

Direct Care Physical Pharmacy will open in the coming months at 219 Park Avenue.

Home on the Harbor will be relocating its Mount Washington store to 1414 Key Hwy in the coming months. At its new location, the furniture retailer will continue to offer classic modern furniture, lighting, rugs, and gifts.

Spirititas will open in April at 786 Washington Blvd. Pigtown's newest retail venture, this new wine and beer shop will also offer monthly tastings.

If you have available retail space for lease in Downtown or have recently signed a new retailer to your location, please contact Mackenzie Paull at mpaull@dpob.org.

Member News

Awards

Downtown's Fairfield Inn & Suites, Baltimore's first LEED certified hotel, has received a Special Accomplishment Award from the United States Green Building Council, Maryland Chapter. The award was provided to buildings that focus on sustainability.

Zolna Russell, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP, Director of Sustainability with landscape architecture firm [hord | coplan | macht](#), has been honored as "Member of the Year" by the U.S. Green Building Council, Maryland Chapter.

Government

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability is pleased to announce the launch of their new website. www.baltimoresustainability.org.

Hospitality

From first dates to ten-year anniversaries, from romantic weekend getaways to a chance to win a free wedding, [Harbor Magic's](#) Pier 5 Hotel, Admiral Fell Inn and Brookshire Suites will be celebrating love's most memorable moments with "February: A Month of Love." Throughout the entire month of February, the three boutique hotels will be transformed into a celebration of love with special décor and themed in-hotel experiences. Guests can sip on Godiva Martinis or champagne at several different free receptions throughout the week, indulge in the ultimate chocolate event and even hear stories of Baltimore's most famous romances. More information and additional details on Harbor Magic's Month of Love can be found at www.harbormagic.com/love or by calling 866.247.6803.

Non-Profit

The new [Health Care for the Homeless](#) headquarters and clinical building is the recipient of the United States Green Building Council, Maryland's award for New Construction. Representatives from Health Care for the Homeless, architecture firm [Kann Partners](#) and general contractor [Harkins Builders](#) were at the ceremony to accept the award.

The [Maryland Humanities Council](#) has received an \$80,000 grant from the Boeing Charitable Trust to lead a three-state effort to develop effective means of holding civil discourse about important civic issues. The Maryland Humanities Council is planning a series of public programs called *Practicing Democracy: Seeking Common Ground*, which is intended to foster discussions about community issues. Each program will be developed in partnership with other Maryland non-profit organizations. Similar efforts are planned for Washington and Illinois. For details, visit www.mdhc.org.

Development News

City Center

[The Maryland Office of the Attorney General](#) has renewed its lease for 109,635 sq ft of office space at St. Paul Plaza in Baltimore. As a result, the building remains 100 percent leased.

Mt. Vernon

Hotel Brexton, which opened its doors to the public on February 12, recently hired general manager Paul Masai. By the end of this month, the boutique hotel will house a café and ice cream shop.

Maryland General Hospital recently opened a \$57 million expansion. The five-story project includes more than 15,000 sq ft of renovated space and 77,000 sq ft of newly constructed space. The building was designed by [hord | coplan | macht](#).

The **John and Frances Angelos Law Center**, a new \$107 million addition to the University of Baltimore Law School, is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2012 and open for classes spring semester 2013. [Ayers/Saint/Gross](#) is part of the design team for the building.

Station North

The **City Arts** project, \$12 million artists' residences and gallery, is scheduled to break ground this month. The development will include an 80,000 sq ft building with 69 rental units and eight for-sale townhomes.

Westside

The **Superblock** project is moving forward. Demolition began on several storefronts in the 200 block of W. Lexington St. The cleared buildings will make way for increased redevelopment of Downtown's Westside.

The **University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center** will become home to the National Trauma and Emergency Medicine Training Center. This center will be part of a \$160 million expansion planned for the Downtown medical center starting this spring and scheduled to open in 2013. Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and Elijah Cummings have secured \$2.4 million from the Department of Defense to help fund the project.

Adjacent Neighborhoods

Marks, Thomas Architects has been selected to design a 20-story housing project for Johns Hopkins medical students as part of the **Science + Technology Park at Johns Hopkins** in East Baltimore. The project will include 321 apartments, a green roof, fitness center, and meeting rooms. Construction is scheduled to start this summer and be completed by summer 2012.

\$6.45 million in design work has been approved for a new state public health laboratory to be built as part of the **Science + Technology Park at Johns Hopkins**. The 200,000 square foot, \$180 million lab will replace the current crowded facility at State Center. Forest City – New East Baltimore Partnership will oversee the project.

The **Maryland Stadium Authority** has approved a \$100,000 feasibility study to determine if building a soccer stadium as part of **South Baltimore's Westport** project would be economically beneficial for Baltimore. The professional soccer team D.C. United is looking for a new home.