



Stacey Dickson  
p: 913.631.6545  
e: sdickson@shawnee-edc.com

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### SHAWNEE BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED FOR IMPACT IN COMMUNITY

Shawnee Economic Development Council Hosts Business Appreciation Awards Luncheon

SHAWNEE, Kan. July, 2013 – Shawnee Mayor Jeff Meyers and Shawnee Economic Development Council (SEDC) Executive Committee Chair Dennis Monahan presented 13 awards from the Shawnee Economic Development Council at the annual Business Appreciation Luncheon today. Six businesses were recognized with Business Development Awards, four with Heritage Awards, two with Downtown Partnership Awards and the Chamber Hall of Fame Award.

The selection criteria for the Business Development Award includes having projects that were completed or nearly completed in the last 12 months, projects that involved a capital investment of at least \$1 million, and/or projects that created a significant amount of jobs in the community.

“We have such a great business community here in Shawnee,” said Dennis Monahan, Executive Committee Chair of the Shawnee Economic Development Council. “It is an honor to be able to recognize both new businesses impacting our economy as well as those who have been supporting the economy here for many years.”

This year’s Business Development Awardees include:

- **Chipotle:** An extremely popular new retailer among Shawnee residents, this fast-casual Mexican restaurant has done extremely well off the corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Quivira Road. The Denver-based chain specializes in large burritos in assembly-line style, and use of natural ingredients. The Shawnee location is the first in the community and was supported by the use of the Shawnee Downtown Incentive District’s property tax rebate program.
- **EC Manufacturing:** EC Manufacturing is an advanced manufacturing company in the electronics component industry. EC’s senior leadership has experience and connections with Heatron, Inc. in Leavenworth, Kansas but this new start-up is a distinct contract manufacturer. EC plans to create over 250 new jobs within five years and has made a capital investment of over \$6 million into their new facility in Perimeter Park. EC selected and acquired this property before the previous owner, Thales, fully vacated the building.
- **Kansas City Ice Center:** Opened near the end of last year, KC Ice Center significantly expanded their facility with a new outdoor ice rink. The new NHL-sized rink includes an underground chiller system that will keep the ice frozen in outdoor temperatures up to 60 degrees. The facility, on Johnson Drive across from Mid-America Sports Complex, is the only skating rink in Johnson County and one of only a small few in the entire metro for ice skating and hockey enthusiasts.
- **Quik Trip Corporation:** Quik Trip’s first “Generation 3” concept at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Martindale Road in Johnson County includes a newer, larger floor plan to accommodate expanded food and beverage options. The new structure is over 5,700 square feet with a nearly 7,000 square foot canopy and redeveloped a former general contractor’s building to a beautiful new facility that serves the gasoline and convenience needs of western Shawnee residents.
- **Shawnee Crossing Medical Office Building/Jenkins & LeBlanc, PA:** Shawnee’s newest medical office building is in Shawnee Crossings at K-7 and Shawnee Mission Parkway and is home to Jenkins & LeBlanc Pediatric Dentistry. With four area locations in Johnson and Wyandotte counties, their Shawnee practice opened in 2005 and has quickly grown. Seeing an opportunity to expand, they developed this 11,200 sq. ft. facility which opened in September of last year. The building is also home to Bulleigh Orthodontics.

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- **Sky Zone Kansas City:** This indoor trampoline park, located at 65th & Quivira, opened last summer as the 30th Sky Zone facility in the country and is in the top three in overall performance. Sky Zone provides considerable economic impact by bringing customers from all over the region to Shawnee – over 150,000 jumpers so far – as well as employing approx. 90. They have also renovated the long-vacant former Hy-Vee Grocery on Quivira, providing new vitality to the shopping center, nearby retail businesses, and specifically area pizza shops with whom they do considerable business.

The Heritage Award is given to those companies in Shawnee that have sustained long-term employment and/or investment in Shawnee. This year's awardees are:

- **CarQuest:** General Parts Inc. is the largest distributor among the CARQUEST organization of over 3,000 auto parts stores, including two retail stores in Shawnee. One of the Shawnee stores is located within General Part's 122,000 square foot warehouse in the Nieman Business Park at 78th & Nieman. The facility employs approximately 80 in the distribution industry.
- **FedEx Ground:** FedEx is the 2nd largest employer in the City of Shawnee with over 600 employees. The company has invested tens of millions of dollars into Shawnee's economy and continues to do so. The 224,000 square foot warehouse and truck terminal was made one of the largest in Shawnee in 1998 when was last expanded.
- **Ford Motor Company:** Built in 2003, this warehouse in the southern-end of Perimeter Park provides dealer vehicle service and repair parts to more than 300 Ford dealerships across a seven state region. There are more than 20 such facilities across the country that supply 30,000 parts stocked with approximately 15,000 parts shipped daily from Shawnee's facility.
- **McLane Foodservice:** McLane Foodservice focuses on the quick-service restaurant market, with the Shawnee facility serving an 8-state region. Last year, McLane made a considerable long-term commitment to Shawnee by purchasing and renovating their facility at 83rd & Monticello Road. At 241,000 square feet, the warehouse is the second largest in the city and has 212 employees.

The event also honored two Shawnee businesses for their investment in downtown Shawnee. **She's A Pistol** received the **Downtown Impact Award** for its added investment to the downtown area. Opened in 2012 just one block north of Johnson Drive on Nieman, She's a Pistol has expanded their client base from Shawnee and northern Johnson County residents to customers visiting downtown from all over the metro and states beyond. She's a Pistol offers numerous classes including concealed-carry, pistol training, self-defense, and many more.

**Mattes Appraisal Company, Inc.** received the **Downtown Revitalization Award** for making significant improvements to the outside appearance of its building at 58th & Flint. The significant renovation of this former single-family house for their offices included new HVAC, lighting, electrical, plumbing, windows, exterior painting and landscaping.

Finally, the recipient of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame Award was **Vita Craft Corporation**. Vita Craft has been an integral part of downtown Shawnee since the 1950's. Vita Craft is a manufacturer of various cookware products and advertises their advantage is their vapor seal design which allows little or no heat or moisture to escape the pan when the lid is secure which also allows for healthier cooking without oils. The Hall of Fame Award is a special recognition of a business that has played a major role in shaping the face of the community and making a tremendous contribution to the city over a long period of time. It is selected by the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

#### **About the Economic Development Council:**

The Shawnee Economic Development Council (SEDC) works collaboratively with the City of Shawnee and the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce to drive business growth and development. The SEDC provides unique networking and business knowledge sharing opportunities and serves as a one-stop resource center for Shawnee businesses. The SEDC promotes Shawnee as a distinctive business location with an enhanced quality of life.

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If you'd like more information about the business appreciation awards, please call the SEDC office at 913.631.6545 or email Stacey Dickson at [sdickson@shawnee-edc.com](mailto:sdickson@shawnee-edc.com).