

February 8, 2008



## Council Workshop on Redevelopment



Mayor Chris Koos

### 1. City Manager and Mayor from Normal Illinois

Next Wednesday we have arranged for the City Manager (Mark Peterson) and the Mayor (Chris Koos) of Normal Illinois to come talk to us about their work over the last year to redevelop their downtown (now called "uptown"), their partnership with the university for a new hotel/conference center, and a new multi-modal facility. With similar projects in various stages of planning in Kent we thought it was a good time to listen to the lessons learned from Normal Illinois as we develop strategies for implementing our own projects. The Mayor and Mark have a powerpoint presentation planned to share their experiences and insights with us. In preparation for the meeting we've put together a short comparison of Normal and Kent for reference purposes (attached).

## Information Items

### 1. Copy of Don Schjeldahl's Presentation

As requested we've included a copy of Don's powerpoint presentation from the Economic Development workshop held last week. (attachment)

### 2. Income Tax Receipts

Barb has provided a summary of income tax collections for January 2008. With just one month into the fiscal year it's hard to draw many conclusions from the data but the good news is that we seem to be off to a good start with the figures up 2.7% from last year. The income tax receipts from Kent State are also up 4.1% (attachment)

### 3. Monthly Permit and Zoning Staff Report

Gary Locke has enclosed a copy of the monthly zoning and permit violations report thru January 1, 2008. You will note in his report that city building permits are down 20% from last year, and the associated development fees are down 11%. The declines are not surprising given the continued declines in housing. (attachment)

### 4. Board of Zoning Appeals

Heather Phile has provided a copy of the staff report for the February 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. There is one item before the Board: 1. 1296 Middlebury Road (setback variance request for detached structure). (attachment)