



**AGENDA  
CITY OF CREVE COEUR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MARCH 18, 2025  
8:00 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1. Approve Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2025**
- 2. Creve Coeur Business Awards 2025**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BUSINESS FROM STAFF**

- 3. Development Update - Jason Jaggi**  
**Olia Village**  
**Bayer East Campus**  
**Centennial Greenway - Mark Perkins**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

**Thurs., May 15, 11:30A-1P - Creve Coeur Business Awards**  
**Tues., May 20, 8-9A - Regular EDC Meeting**  
**Summary:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Posted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time posted: \_\_\_\_\_

***If you need special accommodations to attend a meeting, services may be arranged by contacting the Office of the City Administrator in advance.***



**AGENDA  
CITY OF CREVE COEUR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MARCH 18, 2025  
8:00 AM**



**MINUTES  
CITY OF CREVE COEUR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
JANUARY 21, 2025  
8:00 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ned Maniscalco called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee Chair Ned Maniscalco - present  
Committee Vice Chair David Morris - absent  
Committee Member Warren Davis - present  
Committee Member Robert Huekler - present  
Committee Member Roger Levy - present  
Committee Member Jonathan Sher - absent  
Committee Member Lucas Stauder - absent  
Committee Member Ramaa Vissa - present

Others in attendance included: Mayor Robert Hoffman, Council Liaison Mark Manlin, City Administrator Mark Perkins, Director of Community Development Jason Jaggi, Assistant City Administrator Sharon Stott, and former Ward 2 Councilmember and Candidate Nicole Greer.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of July 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Robert Huekler moved, seconded by Roger Levy to approve the EDC meeting minutes from July 16, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

<p><b>RESULT:</b> Approve EDC Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024 <b>MOVER:</b> Robert Huekler <b>SECONDER:</b> Roger Levy <b>AYES:</b> Ned Maniscalco, Warren Davis, Robert Huekler, Roger Levy, Ramaa Vissa <b>NAYS:</b> None</p>
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**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2025**

Chair Ned Maniscalco accepted nominations for the position of Chair for FY25. Warren Davis moved, seconded by Robert Huekler to nominate Ned Maniscalco as Chair.



**MINUTES  
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JANUARY 21, 2025  
8:00 AM**

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESULT:** Nominate Ned Maniscalco to serve as Chair of the EDC in FY25  
**MOVER:** Warren Davis  
**SECONDER:** Robert Huekler  
**AYES:** Ned Maniscalco, Warren Davis, Robert Huekler, Roger Levy, Ramaa Vissa  
**NAYS:** None

Chair Ned Maniscalco accepted nominations for the position of Vice Chair for FY25. Ned Maniscalco moved, seconded by Warren Davis, to nominate David Morris as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESULT:** Nominate David Morris to serve as Vice Chair of the EDC in FY25  
**MOVER:** Ned Maniscalco  
**SECONDER:** Warren Davis  
**AYES:** Ned Maniscalco, Warren Davis, Robert Huekler, Roger Levy, Ramaa Vissa  
**NAYS:** None

### **3. Creve Coeur Business Awards**

Assistant City Administrator Sharon Stott provided a brief overview of the 10th Annual Creve Coeur Business Awards. Ms. Stott stated the promotion has commenced for the awards and will run through March 7, 2025; twenty-two nominations have been received to date in Favorite Restaurant and Heart of the Community categories, and EDC members are encouraged to promote the awards and nominate businesses.

Mayor Hoffman said Lexus has incorporated some solar components into their new building proposed off of Old Olive Road and it may be a good nomination for the Green Business Award. Sharon Stott said she will mention the Lexus project to the staff liaison to the Energy & Environment Committee and referred all EDC members to the website to see past award recipients.

## **BUSINESS FROM STAFF**

### **4. Development Updates - Jason Jaggi**



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Director of Community Development Jason Jaggi provided a brief development update:

- Olia Village - City Council approved an amendment to the retaining wall for the project requiring additional tree clearing and wall reinforcement due to poor soil conditions. Staff anticipates it may be receiving building plans in the next three to four months.
- M1 Bank - construction is progressing and power lines have been relocated underground using some funds from the closed Olive TDD.
- Marijuana Dispensary - request to have a pick-up window an existing business with an existing drive-thru on Lindberg Boulevard at Ladue Road.
- Bayer East Campus - Bayer is selling 95 acres of its east campus. Staff will be updating its comprehensive plan for the site because of its proximity and importance to the 39N area.

Council Liaison Mark Manlin mentioned "Better Together", a state bill proposed to merge St. Louis County, the City of St. Louis, and all municipalities in St. Louis County into a Metropolitan City of St. Louis.

Committee discussed the pros and cons of Better Together and the importance of everyone understanding what this bill proposes and its impact on surrounding communities. Robert Huekler suggested adding it as a standing EDC agenda item moving forward.

Sharon Stott will forward the proposed House Bill #27 and other background information to the Committee.

Warren Davis asked about the status of the Greenstreet Project at the corner of Olive Boulevard and New Ballas Road, to which Mr. Jaggi said the Greenstreet and the project have closed, and the area will remain a shopping center for the foreseeable future.

Committee discussed hosting another offsite meeting and possibly at the Helix Incubator, to which Mr. Perkins agreed.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**



**MINUTES  
CITY OF CREVE COEUR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
JANUARY 21, 2025  
8:00 AM**

**March 18, 2025 @ 8A**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.



## CREVE COEUR BUSINESS AWARDS 2025 NOMINATIONS

### 2025 NOMINATIONS SUMMARY

#### **Most Innovative Business Award**

1. Agragene (1100 Corporate Square Dr., Suite 264) [Current Business License]
2. Plastomics (1100 Corporate Square Dr.) [Current Business License]
3. Solis Agrosociences (1100 Corporate Square Dr.) [Current Business License]
4. The Fitness Edge (10571 Old Olive Street Rd.) [Expired]

#### **Heart of the Community Award**

1. Excel Sports & Physical Therapy (713 N. New Ballas Rd.) [Current Business License]
2. Fantastic Finds (12778 Olive Blvd.) [Current Business License]
3. Master Kim's Martial Arts (12354 Olive Blvd.) [Expired]
4. St. Mary's Complete Home Care (11628 Old Ballas Rd.) [Current Business License]
5. YarnCom (12772 Olive Blvd.) [Current Business License]
6. *Not located in Creve Coeur: Miriam School and Learning Center (1138 N. Warson Rd., Olivette, MO 63132)*

#### **Green Business Award**

1. First Bank (11901 Olive Blvd.) [Current Business License]

#### **Favorite Restaurant Award (determined by popular vote – Deadline April 7)**

1. Il Bel Lago (11631 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141) [Current Business License]
2. Taziki's Mediterranean Café (12704 Olive Blvd.) [Current Business License]
3. Timothy's The Restaurant (12710 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141) [Expired]

*Business license status as of 3/10/25.*

# MOST INNOVATIVE BUSINESS

**Business Name:** Agragene

**Address:** 1100 Corporate Square Dr., Suite 264, Creve Coeur, MO 63132

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** Agragene has revolutionized sustainable agriculture through its Precision-Guided Sterile Insect Technology™ (pgSIT), offering an eco-friendly alternative to traditional pesticides. By establishing itself in Creve Coeur, Agragene has leveraged the St. Louis region's strong bioscience ecosystem to advance its groundbreaking pest-control solutions. This year, Agragene achieved significant milestones, including USDA approved field testing in an Oregon cherry orchard and critical progress toward product registration. Their commitment to innovation and sustainability exemplifies the qualities celebrated by this award. More links below:

Website is <https://www.agragene.com/about>

St. Louis Based Agragene to Deploy Gene-Edited Fruit Flies to Save Fruit Crops in Field Studies [YouTube]: [https://www.youtube.com/embed/b5O2beTeo\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/embed/b5O2beTeo_o)

Aragene's Journey from California to St. Louis: The Perfect Place to Grow a Business and a Family [BioSTL]: <https://www.biostl.org/news-and-media/home/agragenes-journey-from-california-to-st-louis-the-perfect-place-to-grow-a-business-and-a-family>

**Business Name:** Plastomics

**Address:** 1100 Corporate Square Dr., Creve Coeur, MO 63132

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

**Nomination #1:** Plastomics is an ag-tech startup located in the Helix Biotech Center revolutionizing agriculture with its groundbreaking chloroplast engineering platform for next-generation corn and soybean traits. The firms' innovative approach addresses the critical need for novel, value-added traits in the \$25+ billion global biotech seed market, which has seen limited advancements since 2003.

Plastomics overcomes the current technology challenges of trait development progress and increasing costs by leveraging the plant's chloroplast—its own engine—for trait delivery. This unique method offers significant advantages including unlocking a wider range of highly efficacious traits, eliminates cross-pollen contamination and enables faster development and breeding due to the maternal inheritance of chloroplasts.

Plastomics' platform has demonstrated remarkable success, including:

Unprecedented Trait Expression: Achieving trait expression levels unattainable through nuclear transformation, even expressing genes that previously failed in other platforms.

Soybean Transformation: Successful demonstration of chloroplast trait transformation in soybean plants with trait inheritance.

Corn Advancements: Development of proprietary tools for proof-of-concept in corn.

Strategic Partnerships: Securing multi-million dollar research agreements with multinational organizations and co-development agreements with global trait providers and seed companies.

Plastomics' innovative technology, coupled with its strong industry partnerships and impressive progress, positions it as a leader in agricultural innovation. The company's commitment to attracting top talent is evident in its diverse team of 23 PhDs and science professionals. Creve Coeur's vibrant community, with its excellent schools, diverse entertainment options, and affordable housing, has played a key role in attracting this talented workforce. Plastomics' success demonstrates the attractiveness of Creve Coeur as a hub for innovative businesses and highlights the city's commitment to fostering a thriving biotech ecosystem. Plastomics is poised to reshape the future of agriculture, delivering significant benefits to growers, the environment, and the global food system.

<https://plastomics.com>

**Business Name:** Solis Agrosiences

**Address:** 1100 Corporate Square Dr., Creve Coeur, MO 63132

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

**Nomination #1:** Founded in 2022, Solis Agrosiences has quickly established itself as a reliable and innovative partner in the agtech sector. Based in Creve Coeur's 39 North AgTech Innovation District, Solis specializes in gene-editing, plant transformation, and deep sequencing, serving a diverse clientele that ranges from ambitious startups to multinational corporations. This end-to-end approach helps companies improve agronomic traits such as yield and disease resistance, as well as consumer-facing traits like enhanced flavor and nutrition. This service approach allows Solis' customers to turn solutions on, off, up or down without the complexity of scaling their own staff or internal footprint – enabling their customers to have improved capital efficiency. Quiet simply, not only are they growing, they are empowering the growth of other companies in the 39 North district.

Fresh off a successful Series A raise (Feb. 2025, see attached PDF), Solis is expanding both its scientific capabilities and regional economic impact. In just the past year, the company has grown its team, added high-quality jobs, and strengthened St. Louis' position as a global hub for agtech talent and innovation.

In a bold expansion, Solis Agrosociences acquired Ferris Genomics (Nov. 2024, see attached PDF), adding high-throughput genotyping and bioinformatics to its suite of offerings. Ferris Genomics was also located in the 39 North AgTech Innovation District, making the merger of staff, equipment, and facilities more straight-forward. Moreover, Solis Agrosociences has made licensing deals with large gene-editing firms (e.g., Pairwise; June 2024 see attached PDF) to continue to bring new offerings to their customers and further empower other agtech companies and researchers in the region to thrive. Solis is helping to usher in customer growth, more jobs in Creve Coeur both directly and indirectly, and a higher visibility for Creve Coeur and St. Louis in the biotechnology field of gene-editing.

From scientific breakthroughs to business growth, Solis Agrosociences is setting the standard for agtech service innovation. With its cutting-edge science, expanding team, and industry-changing impact, Solis is not just a company—it's a catalyst for the region and agtech innovation district. This and more is why Solis Agrosociences deserves to be recognized as the 2025 Most Innovative Business in Creve Coeur.

Press releases:

- [Solis Agrosociences secures Series A funding from Cultivation Capital to fuel business growth \(2/25/25\)](#)
- [Solis Agrosociences acquires genomics platform to provide genotyping and bioinformatics services to agriculture companies \(11/19/24\)](#)
- [genXtraits Inc. and Solis Agrosociences enter collaboration agreement \(1/13/25\)](#)

**Business Name:** The Fitness Edge

**Address:** 10571 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** Expired

- **Nomination #1:** Mike Jaudes is the pioneer-trailblazer for the industry in the midwestern region of the US. He founded and started the Fitness Edge Personal Training in August of 1984. Knowing that Most people don't really know how to correctly exercise or execute proper resistance exercise

The Fitness Edge just celebrated our 40th year in business. The industry has grown exponentially internationally since the mid 1980's.

The Fitness Edge has made a career helping individual people with appropriate proper exercise for their age, body type, and goals with the mission to make it a lifestyle. Many of the Fitness Edge clients have been regulars for decades. Most of the staff members have been on the FE team for several decades

# HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

**Business Name:** Excel Sports & Physical Therapy

**Address:** 713 N. New Ballas Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** This tightly knit group of individuals works tirelessly to help members of the community improve their health and well being. Although the work is challenging, Excel employees do it with compassion and a sense of humor!
- **Nomination #2:** Excel employees work hard and care for everyone and it shows.
- **Nomination #3:** This is the best physical therapy place! So friendly and helpful. The attention one receives here is fantastic.
- **Nomination #4:** The employees at this business are always warm and welcoming. The business has made an impact on my health and helped me to strengthen and heal. I am grateful for Excel Sports and Physical Therapy in helping me become a better version of myself.
- **Nomination #5:** Excel Sports and Physical Therapy in the heart of Creve Coeur provides individualized treatment in a friendly and professional atmosphere. The staff from the receptionist to the individual therapists are committed to each patient's well being. Collectively, they have created an environment that is always inviting and encouraging. Physical Therapy focuses upon a personal challenge but all those who are treated there feel a connection to support one another. I would encourage you to read the reviews posted by many of their patients as they attest to that unique supportive relationship.

The entire office celebrates each patient's completion of their treatment plan with an informal "graduation". The office hosts Patient Appreciation Days during the year. The office is often decorated and staff dressed for holidays, special local events like one of our area teams making their playoffs.

Excel Sports and Physical Therapy puts the sense is community in its business mission. The organization seeks opportunities to engage in the community. They offer free screenings at community businesses and organizations. They respond to requests for public speaking on physical therapy and well-being.

Excel Sports has changed locations over the years but has always remained in Creve Coeur. The office offers flexible hours, recognizing that some patients work non-traditional work hours.

Because of their quality of services, they have patients that come from all over the St. Louis metropolitan area, Thus these out of area patients are introduced to the resources and businesses of Creve Coeur.

Excel Sports and Physical Therapy deserves recognition for its long time and on-going commitment to provide outstanding care and treatment to Creve Coeur residents.

- **Nomination #6:** I recently sought out physical therapy. While my Primary Care Physician recommended a PT group within her organization, a friend had experience with Excel and suggested I contact them.

I'm glad I did. Everyone who works there is happy to be there. I encountered none of the indifference and apathy I experienced in some many other places. Each person I worked with explained, in detail, what was happening, for billing to my physical therapist.

My Physical Therapist, Novalee Patel, not only addressed the issue that brought me to Excel but gave me exercises to help with unrelated mobility and/or pain problems. While I was scheduled for 8 sessions, my problem was resolved in 6. She also provided exercises (with clear emailed instructions) that will allow me continue improving and maintain my mobility. I saw similar results with the other patients present during my therapy.

As our population ages, Excel Sports and Physical Therapy will be an even more important business in Creve Coeur.

- **Nomination #7:** I'd like to nominate Excel Sports & Physical Therapy for Creve Coeur's city business recognition. This health and wellness center stands out for its exceptional compassion and patience, providing care unlike any other physical therapy facility. Despite its modest size, the dedicated staff tailor their services to meet individual needs in a welcoming, family-like atmosphere. Their mission to empower clients to heal and return to their daily lives makes it a true place of restoration especially it is located in a nearby Missouri Baptist & Mercy hospital. It can be a hub for health, support, and recovery. I recently graduated!!!

**Business Name:** Fantastic Finds

**Address:** 12778 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [\[Current Business License\]](#)

- **Nomination #1:** Fantastic Finds Upscale Resale shop is the largest fundraiser for Assistance League of St. Louis whose mission is to invest in student success and support families in crisis. Operated entirely by volunteers, Fantastic Finds offers a wide range of high-quality clothing, jewelry, shoes, accessories, home decor, and furniture at unbeatable prices.

Fantastic Finds was honored to be a winner in 2022 and 2024 for St. Louis Magazine's prestigious A-List Award for Best Resale Shop. Over 200 volunteers gave almost 26,000 hours this past fiscal year to keep the shop running smoothly. With the support of those in the local community who donated and shopped, Fantastic Finds saw its highest

receipt sales ever. Often on Tuesday mornings there will be a line of customers outside waiting for us to open. Due to the friendly atmosphere created by our very welcoming volunteers, a number of regular customers make a trip to the store part of their weekly activity where they can chat and socialize with our volunteers.

All proceeds from Fantastic Finds directly fund Assistance League of St. Louis' community programs. Our five programs supply uniforms, shoes, coats, books, and essentials to bolster student achievement; extend hope and dignity to families in crisis, offering beds, and clothing and empower women by providing college scholarships.

Fantastic Finds celebrated its 20th year of business in Bellerive Plaza in June, 2024, and continues to turn resale treasures into meaningful, lasting change in the St. Louis community.

Assistance League of St. Louis is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization awarded the highest ratings given by the Better Business Bureau, Charity Navigator and Candid. [alstl.org](http://alstl.org)

[Assistance League of St. Louis 2024 Annual Report](#)

**Business Name:** Master Kim's Martial Arts

**Address:** 12354 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Expired]

- **Nomination #1:** They're always giving back to community!

**Business Name:** St. Mary's Complete Home Care

**Address:** 11628 Old Ballas Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** Saint Mary's takes seriously their responsibility and approach to improve the health of the community it serves. This includes increasing access to care, addressing health disparities, and supporting the community's well-being.
- **Nomination #2:** Saint Mary's has been providing exceptional home health care services to members of the Creve Coeur community for almost 5 years. Their impeccable service has earned them consistent 5 star ratings from all of their clients-a complete 100% satisfaction from all clients in this type of service is quite rare and I believe needs to be recognized.
- **Nomination #3:** This organization's caregivers provided my wife with unbelievable help during her most trying times. They are angels in human form.

**Business Name:** YarnCom

**Address:** 12772 Old Ballas Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** Heather of Yarn Com has created a vibrant community of fiber artists and crafters of all sorts. The place is welcoming to all, with special stitch in groups that cater to a multitude of communities, including a mens group, groups for people with disabilities, and LGBTQ stitch circles. Yarn Com is a beautiful, colorful place, where everyone who walks in the door is greeted with warmth, inclusivity and just plain FUN! We are lucky in St. Louis to have this yarn shop!
- **Nomination #2:** Yarn Com's emphasis is using knitting and crocheting to build community. Heather has created a welcoming, inclusive space in which to bring people together.
- **Nomination #3:** Yarncom is a local yarn shop that opened in January 2023, bringing fiber artists from the St. Louis region together. Three times a week they host groups for locals to enjoy making various items using crochet, knit, embroider, cross stitch, or weaving arts. These groups have grown to average 25-30 participants at each meeting.

Heather Swan, owner aka Yarn Queen, has been building the community not just for fiber artists, but also for business owners and professionals in the region. She serves as the President of Creve Coeur/Olivette Chapter for Little Black Book and the Membership Vice Chair for West County Chamber of Commerce. She devotes her time and connections bringing people together that stretch through various industries and encourages those looking to start a business. Using her location in Creve Coeur, she draws people from all of the world to stop in and see all the things that Creve Coeur, MO has to offer. She encourages visitors to frequent the other local businesses and restaurants to keep Creve Coeur a leading community of vibrancy and joy for all of us to enjoy.

Heather was awarded the Founder's Award by Little Black Book this past December for her commitment to supporting women in business. This award is provided to women that exemplify the five pillars of the organization; Connect, Promote, Share, Give, and Become.

Yarncom works with local organizations to fundraise and collect to be a responsible member of the community at large. This past year they collected for Toys for Tots and Presents for Paws. In 2025, they will be centering some of their stitch groups around creating items to benefit local organizations supporting those with health issues to be more comfortable in their treatments.

Yarncom has been an inclusive environment for all persons to come and commune. Their mission is to use creating as a way to bring those together that would typically not sit together and learn to accept and understand one another.

- **Nomination #4:** Focused on creating a community go-to place
- **Nomination #5:** Yarncom has been the best shop for crafting supplies, classes, community building groups, and a quiet workspace! My skills and love for knitting would

be nowhere near my level today if this shop did not exist. The staff is inclusive, kind, welcoming, and totally enthusiastic about sharing knowledge. They are a truly special place and deserve to be recognized!

- **Nomination #6:** Heather Swan and the staff have truly created a community through fiber arts at YarnCom. The stitching groups provide opportunities to learn from others, network, and support each other. I've not only gained skills, I have also gained community. I truly appreciate that a warm, welcoming, nurturing business is in my local community.
- **Nomination #7:** YarnCom hosts a variety of events and open stitch nights, including an LGBTQIA stitch night. It's a comfortable, welcoming environment for folks to gather, gab, and learn. Even as a total newbie to knitting/crochet, I always feel welcome and supported as a friend and artist.
- **Nomination #8:** YarnCom is the most welcoming helpful yarn store! I hope they stay for many years.
- **Nomination #9:** Yarncom has brought together fiber artists from many different communities. We gather several times a week to knit, crochet, weave and socialize. Yarncom's owner and staff are always welcoming and helpful. They support other businesses in the community by having events to showcase these businesses. They constantly come up with ideas to reach out to the community by having classes, and other social groups. The best part is that Yarncom includes everyone and it is a fun place to gather.
- **Nomination #10:** This yarn store is revitalizing the St. Louis crafting community with an eye toward gathering and sharing. Learning about knitting, crochet, weaving, tapestry, spinning, dyeing yarn here is fun and connects you with other folks from the region. The pop up markets with other St. Louis small makers further support our community. We are so lucky to have YarnCom in Creve Coeur.
- **Nomination #11:** The business owner has brought together many, many members of different communities to experience the Heart of the Community. She has also brought in all kinds of different ways to use her creative ability to teach to others and pass her knowledge along to both young and old. The moment you walk into the door you know immediately that you have found a new home in order to learn from, meet all kinds of new people and make new friends. That is why I feel that Heather's business should receive the "Heart of the Community" award. She has a big heart and passes it along to everyone in her path.
- **Nomination #12:** YarnCom is a wonderful local yarn shop that has many activities for all skill levels of crafters. I wish I was able to visit more often.
- **Nomination #13:** Yarncom (LYS) in Creve Coeur has a positive commitment to the community and the Saint Louis area. teaching classes in knitting, crochet, weaving, painting ceramics to name a few. Their open space is used for birthday parties, baby showers, sleepovers, and the many days and nights when the shop is open for communities to gather. Heather and her employees welcome everyone with open arms.

- **Nomination #14:** Yarncom fills an important niche in the Creve Coeur community that would otherwise be largely empty -- fostering a space for fiber art to thrive and to create a sense of community among artists and people wishing to learn a new craft. Fiber arts tend to be easily dismissed, but they are deeply meaningful as a way for communities to come together, for people to simply take time out of our busy modern days to create something with our hands and do so with other likeminded people. Yarncom is not only a store providing wonderful fiber materials and classes, but everything they do is centered on nourishing this community, whether it's simply providing weekly spaces for people to come and spend time together or putting on fun events or advocating for artists and events around the St. Louis area. Yarncom has become a bright light for me in these tumultuous times, a reminder of how meaningful it can be to just slow down and spend time with other people. No one is doing this for the fiber arts community in Creve Coeur quite the same way as Yarncom! And its reach is even wider, accepting of everyone and offering its classes and friendly knowledge to anyone who would like to start a new hobby for themselves as a way to care for themselves and discover a new passion. I highly recommend them for their heart, which is exactly what I most associate with Yarncom.
- **Nomination #15:** For creative people who want to gather and create fiber items in a friendly atmosphere of like minded enthusiasts surrounded by materials and sample items for inspiration. All are welcomed and the comradery is the best example of community.
- **Nomination #16:** This store promotes community and inclusivity and everyone is welcome who enters the door. It is large and well-stocked and has attentive employees who care about their store and about teaching their visitors more about fiber arts. The proprietor is involved in a variety of community outreach activities and encourages everyone to be the best person they can be.
- **Nomination #17:** Yarn store that offers smaller yarn shops and creates the opportunity to offer their products to a larger area. Offers classes for all levels of knitting, crocheting, spinning and felting. Heather is knowledgeable in multiple areas of fiber arts while also hosting classes from other yarn stores that have closed. YarnCom is a place to get help with troubled stitches or a problem pattern. YarnCom also hosts open stitch time to gather with other like-minded stitchers. Truly a great store with a great community of stitchers to vouch for it!!!
- **Nomination #18:** Yarn shop that cultivates community within the fiber arts. Provides excellent and relevant services for the community. Hosts events that connects people in the community.
- **Nomination #19:** Yarncom is more than a place to buy yarn. Yarncom is my happy place! The inclusive vibe is noticeable as soon as I cross the threshold and I am greeted by name. Sitting at the table during Open Stitch times, I often hear "Welcome in!" when customers come through the door. I've participated in Yarncom classes and retreats and never felt like I didn't belong. Heather, the fabulous Yarn Queen, has a heart for community and created a wonderful place where someone working on their first project

can sit at the table with an experienced maker and talk about crafting and everything else. As for “commitment to the community” and “positive impact,” Yarncom filled a large void in the St. Louis area by providing a venue for all kinds of fiber crafters to meet and share. I’ve met local and regional vendors, as well as people from all over the U.S. I didn’t have anywhere to go for yarn and a knitting community until Yarncom opened two years ago, and now I have fiber friends from everywhere.

- **Nomination #20:** Yarncom has a wonderful number of community classes and also is founding member of a local fiber arts festival occurring annually. They are friendly and welcoming to everyone and you make new friends when you go there. They also host special interest group nights which fosters community in otherwise marginalized social groups. Love it.
- **Nomination #21:** Yarncom is a home not just a business. When you enter the doors you are welcomed not only by staff but the core customers as well. Everyone is willing to help everyone.

The owner reaches out to high schools for interns to expose them to an environment they may not otherwise get to know. She has hosted programs for boyscouts, holds a summer camp for kids. Is apart of an organization that acknowledge, encourage, and support women owned businesses. Does Toys For Tots and donations for animals. Service and support pets welcomed. With one of her own dogs as a greeter sometimes, which light up the moods of some who venture in. She hosts the annual Midwest Fiber Fest at St Louis Community College bringing vendors in from near and local, showing and providing support to their businesses.

Everyone is like an old friend that comes through the door but she is also recognized out in the community. She gets stopped and spoken to, hugged, and told they need to stop by the shop. People come from South City/County, North County, Wildwood, West County, St Charles, and even Illinois to be apart of Yarncom. My personal reason for nominating is because she gave me a place to learn, grow, and be apart of something larger than myself.

- **Nomination #22:** Yarncom has thought beyond just being a retail space. They have pushed and imagined how to create community, welcoming people for events, holding space for gatherings, and all with warmth and friendliness. Every community should have a place like this. It is really the heart of what a community should be.

# GREEN BUSINESS AWARD

**Business Name:** First Bank

**Address:** 11901 Olive Blvd.

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** The new First Bank Headquarters integrates architecture, interior design, and landscaping to prioritize employee wellness and promote sustainability. The building is pursuing LEEDv4 BD+C Silver and WELLv2 Silver certification in recognition of efforts to make the building environmentally sustainable and employee friendly.

Features of the building include:

- a partially open courtyard, oriented south towards Olive Boulevard to allow natural light to penetrate into the interior of the building, which allows for a lower need for artificial light
- use of native and adapted plantings throughout the site
- two green roofs
- use of sustainable stormwater principles
- an estimated 41.36% reduction in water use

More information about the building can be found here

<https://theljc.com/projects/first-bank-headquarters>

## **FAVORITE RESTAURANT (*determined by popular vote*)**

**Business Name:** Il Bel Lago

**Address:** 11631 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** Delicious food, extensive menu and wine list, excellent service, lovely decor from a local, independent (not a chain) entrepreneur. Fine dining for any occasion, including special celebrations.
- **Nomination #2:** Il Bel Lago has consistently delicious food and excellent service. In addition to the bar and general dining room, there are several areas that can accommodate groups of various sizes for more private dining. When weather permits, there are several white tablecloth tables for outdoor dining, too. All this elegance, yet casual attire is permitted.

Il Bel Lago's roots are from Giovanni's on The Hill. Giovanni was one of seven friends that 5-star restaurant Tony's founder, Vincent Bommarito, brought to St. Louis from Sicily decades ago. This is the reason that after New York and Chicago, St. Louis has had so many excellent Italian restaurants. Unfortunately, Tony's is closing at the end of February 2025. A couple of the other original seven have closed, too. We are so very fortunate to have this exceptional Italian restaurant right here in Creve Coeur. Let's continue to patronize it and show our appreciation by awarding them Best Restaurant.

**Business Name:** Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe

**Address:** 12704 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Current Business License]

- **Nomination #1:** Quality food, Good price, Friendly employees, Customer friendly business model

**Business Name:** Timothy's The Restaurant

**Address:** 12710 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

**Business License Status:** [Expired]

- **Nomination #1:** In a city with numerous fast food and restaurant chains Timothy's shines bright above the others. It is owned and operated by a married couple who devote their every waking hour to making Timothy's so successful.

The staff never changes as everyone there is proud of the perfection achieved. Timothy's is a place the customer can always count on to maintain its high standards. The food is exceptional and the menu always changing to keep customers getting variety with every trip in.

Every attention is paid to impeccable cleanliness, comfort, and customer satisfaction.

This year the patio also became a warm room for parties and overflow. When I want to entertain friends or family or just want a great meal in a warm and welcoming place I know I can always count on Timothys.

- **Nomination #2:** I am nominating Timothy's The Restaurant for Favorite Restaurant due to its exceptional commitment to delivering a unique dining experience. The restaurant consistently offers high-quality, expertly crafted dishes, and a welcoming atmosphere that makes every guest feel special. Timothy's combines outstanding customer service with a carefully curated menu that reflects creativity and passion for culinary excellence. Their attention to detail, consistency in flavor, and ability to innovate while honoring traditional dishes make them a standout in the industry. The owner's are absolutely fabulous as well!
- **Nomination #3:** This is a "go-to" restaurant! They have a Happy Hour daily. The food and drinks are excellent and innovative. And last but not least, the vibes are great and the service is dedicated and fantastic!
- **Nomination #4:** Timothys is an independently owned upscale moderately priced eclectic restaurant in the heart of Creve Coeur. The husband and wife owners oversee every aspect of the daily operations as well as serve food and work the bar.

We have eaten at Timothy's numerous times since the day they opened and can say that we have never had a bad meal or poor service. That is extraordinary. Each of the employees give it their all every day. The quality of the food and endless menu additions and creatively, the impeccable cleanliness and care to every detail and the warm ambiance make the dining experience the reason so many people make Timothys their go to place over and over again. We don't drink but they have many wines and a friendly bar that many also choose to have a glass with dinner and watch the kitchen make delicious magic.

This is a place you will always feel welcome. The parking is bountiful. Right off Olive St.Rd. Timothys must be nominated as it is a Creve Coeur gem.



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 11, 2025

**To:** Sharon Stott, Assistant City Administrator;  
Economic Development Committee

**From:** Melissa Bradford, Public Information Officer & Management Analyst;  
Energy & Environment Committee

**Subject:** Green Business Award 2025

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The City received one nominee for the Green Business Award 2025, submitted for consideration by a member of the Energy and Environment Committee. This year's nominee was First Bank, located at 11901 Olive Blvd.

First Bank completed construction of its new \$36 million, 85,000-square-foot headquarters in spring 2024. The four-story building integrates design and landscaping that prioritizes wellness and promotes sustainability. The building is pursuing LEED Silver certification under LEEDv4 BD+C: New Construction, the world's most widely used green building rating system and globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement. It is also pursuing WELLv2 Silver certification in recognition of efforts to deliver more thoughtful and intentional spaces that enhance human health and well-being.

The building was designed with a commitment to sustainability, noting a 41% reduction in water use. The building design also allows an ample amount of natural light into the interior, decreasing the need for artificial light indoors. Additional features of the building include the use of native and adapted landscaping, two green rooftop decks, and use of sustainable stormwater principles.

The Energy and Environment Committee recommends First Bank for the Green Business Award 2025 for its meaningful efforts to incorporate environmentally-friendly features into its newly constructed headquarters.