

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Businesses Open in Historic Downtown Suffolk

SUFFOLK, Virginia (October 13, 2017) – A mix of businesses has opened in historic Downtown Suffolk this month. The downtown energy has been in response to a growing demand and appreciation for local, unique and independently – owned businesses that customers can trust and build a relationship with.

Metropolitan Church Federal Credit Union has expanded into a new establishment located at 133 Tynes Street. The Credit Union has been providing financial services such as business lending and home mortgages to the community since 1949. Beginning as what was often the primary lender to small African – American owned businesses in Suffolk, Metropolitan has grown to a membership of over 1,700 with \$8 million in operating assets. Metropolitan will officially celebrate their new location with a Grand Opening – Ribbon Cutting event on Saturday, October 14th at 9 a.m. Vice Mayor Leroy Bennett will be present for the ceremony.

Cecilia's Boutique & Gifts has opened at 120 North Main Street. Shoppers can peruse high quality, stylish women's apparel and accessories such as jewelry, shoes, handbags and scarves for all seasons. The focus at Cecilia's is providing excellent customer service so that their customers find exactly what they are looking for at a price that fits their budget. They are holding a Grand Opening – Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, October 14th at 11 a.m. with Council Member Donald Goldberg representing Suffolk City Council.

OnePast7 will soon be open at 100 N. Main Street, in the historic Suffolk Professional Building at the corner of N. Main Street and E. Washington Street. Owner and restaurateur Ed Beasley has designed a working art studio with individual artist spaces. OnePast7 occupies close to 4,000 SF of ground floor and upper mezzanine area. Artists can lease suites on a monthly basis to use as studio space or to display their work for sale. The studio areas can also be utilized for special events. The project is designed to both fill the available real estate with a colorful and beneficial tenant mix as well as provide what Ed believes will be a long-term resource to the community. Out of town visitors will be able to incorporate OnePast7 into their tourist itinerary and local patrons can enjoy the rotating mix of wares.

The new business openings follow recent Downtown announcements such as Brick & Mortar Brewing Company and Suffolk Executive Offices. According to Suffolk Mayor Linda T. Johnson, momentum is growing in Downtown Suffolk. “I believe the revitalization that the City has been actively focused on, combined with an influx of new residents of all ages, has really piqued the interest for new businesses,” Johnson commented. “This is a continuation of the forward-thinking Downtown progress we have been aiming for.” A Downtown Initiatives Study is currently underway by the City of Suffolk and Benchmark Planning.



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