

# Memorandum

To: Chair & Members of the Economic Development Committee

From: Paul Zalmezak, Economic Development Division Manager  
Cindy Plante, Economic Development Coordinator

Subject: 2017 Q3 & 4 Economic Development Quarterly Report

Date: January 1, 2018

## Summary & Highlights:

The second half of 2017 was a busy one as construction continued at Fountain Square. Area businesses came together to encourage customers to brave construction traffic in Downtown during the Construction Getdown event in August. Work on the fountain continues, and is expected to be completed in May of 2018.



In September, the Main-Dempster Mile Wine Walk drew a crowd to sip and shop throughout the business district, and businesses throughout Evanston held fundraisers for hurricane relief in the Gulf Coast and Puerto Rico. Also in September, the Evanston Latinx Business Association held its first event, a small business expo in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Evanston Oktoberfest also returned to Downtown Evanston, drawing several hundred attendees for local beer and live music (pictured above).

## **New Businesses**

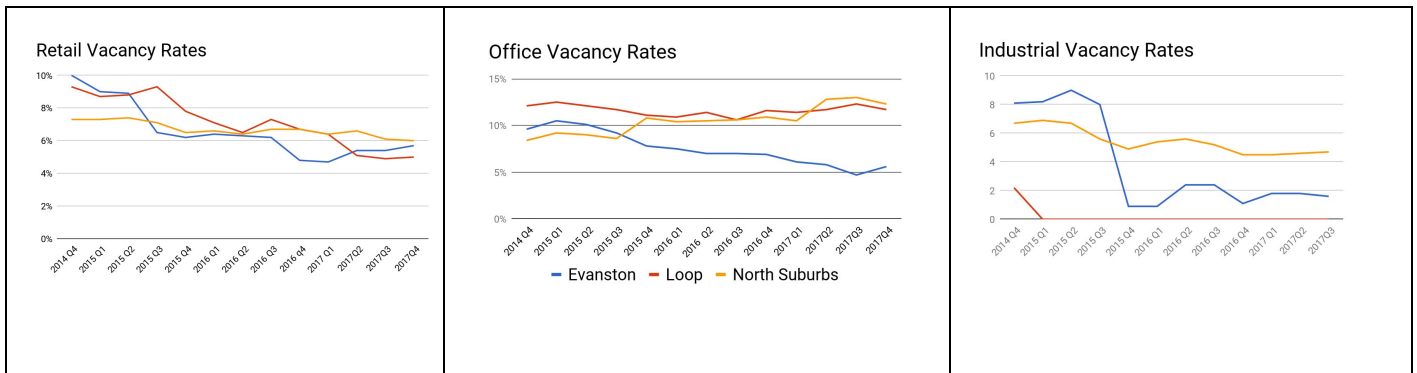
35 new businesses opened in Evanston during the third and fourth quarter of 2017, bringing the total of new businesses to 82 for the year. Among the new businesses were **Pet Supplies Plus** at Evanston Plaza and the first suburban location of **Furious Spoon Ramen**, which opened in Downtown Evanston in the space previously occupied by Red Robin Burger Works. In September, the **Halim Museum of Time and Glass** opened its doors on Oak Street in Evanston. The five-story building showcases over 1,000 antique clocks and watches from around the world, and 80 pieces of stained glass, some as

large as 25 feet tall. The museum is open to the public for an admission fee, and can be rented out for special events.

New Businesses – 2017 Q3 & Q4	
Multilingual Connections - 847 Chicago Ave.	Simple Grace Design, LLC - 1937 Central St.
Studio Mangiameli - 614 Dempster St.	Custom Eyes - 1939 Central St.
Vibe Studio - 518 Davis St.	Jet Blue Print - 1306 Chicago Ave.
Kelso-Burnett Co. - 2111 Dewey Ave.	Resurge Massage - 2914 Central St.
Cadrex Metallurgical Technology - 1603 Orrington Ave.	Furious Spoon - 1700 Maple
Ovo Frito Cafe - 1936 Maple Ave.	Evanston Animal Hospital - 516 Dempster St.
Red Hot Chili Pepper - 500 Davis St.	Aloha Poke - 630 Davis
Quality Auto Repair & Collision - 550 Hartrey Ave.	T&S Landscaping - 208 Custer St.
Amanecer Tacos - 512 Main St.	MBG Products - 1043 Chicago Ave.
Rock N Ravioli - 1012 Church st.	Bourbon "N Brass Speakeasy - 1012 Church St.
Halim Time & Glass Museum - 1560 Oak Ave.	Service Center Auto Repair - 2966 Central St.
Antares Computer Systems - 1603 Orrington Ave.	Everlights, Inc. - 1900 Greenwood St.
Pet Supplies Plus - 1916 Dempster St.	G&G II - 1324 Sherman Ave.
AUM Bio., Inc - 847 Chicago Ave.	Qi Kratom - 624 Grove St.
Beer on Central - 1930 Central St.	Deccans, Inc - 550 Hartrey Ave.
Kovet Boutique - 900 Church St. (pop-up)	EE Florals Atelier - 1604 Chicago Ave.
Vain LLC - 747 Howard St.	Swantiques, LLC - 518 Main St. (pop-up)
My Piano Study - 2809 Central St.	

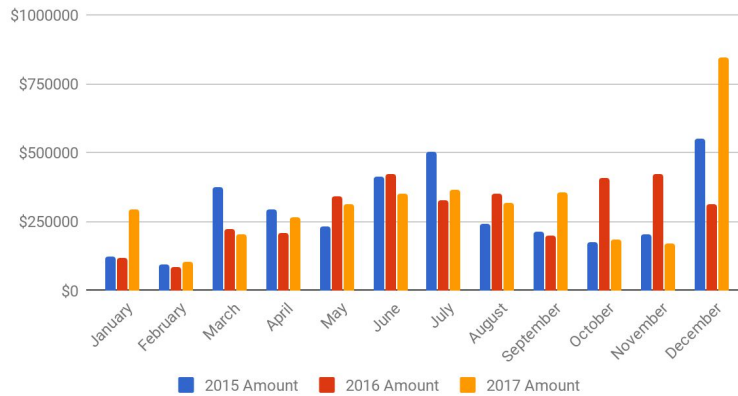
**Construction & Real Estate:**

Demand for space in Evanston remained strong this quarter, with small dips in both office and industrial vacancy rates, while retail vacancy rates held steady.



The City Collector’s office recorded **581 commercial and residential real estate transactions** in Evanston between July 1 and September 30 of 2017, yielding **over \$2.2 million in real estate transfer tax revenue.**

## Real Estate Transfer Tax



Construction and renovation projects with an estimated value of \$172.1 million yielded over **\$3.3 million in building permit revenue** from non-residential properties during the 2nd quarter. Construction and renovation projects at Northwestern University this quarter were valued at an estimated \$152.1 million, which generated over \$2.8 million in building permit fees.

### Entrepreneurship & Workforce Development:

Sunshine Enterprises served twelve startups including several food, art, and retail businesses. Sunshine will continue its focus on women and minority entrepreneurs in 2018. Economic Development staff worked with MWEBE committee to develop the Entrepreneurship Support Program to support these entrepreneurs upon completion of their 12 week startup education program.

The [Evanston Edge Startup Showcase](#) in November drew 100 registered attendees to hear pitches from four local startups at Rotary International's headquarters in downtown Evanston.

## Unemployment Rates

