

Newsletter

2024 Fall/Winter



Slow but Steady Recovery in the West End

The West End BIZ's second quarterly report was released this summer and it brought some much-needed good news for the zone.

In the second quarter of 2024, the West End experienced a significant turnaround as new business openings outpaced closures, resulting in a net gain of five businesses. This marks a notable shift from the end of 2023, when the number of businesses in the West End dropped to its lowest point since 2015.

After a challenging period, it appears the resilience of our local entrepreneurs is becoming increasingly evident.

The report indicates a steady rise in the total number of businesses since the start of the

The West End BIZ is supporting economic recovery through advocacy for member needs (see page 4), grants to support renovations (see page 2), growing our patrol program and much more (page 3).

year. This positive trend is especially encouraging, as many business owners continue to face many challenges including the rising costs.

While you may be familiar with the charming retail shops that line our West End streets, you might be surprised to learn that over a quarter of the businesses in our neighborhood actually occupy industrial spaces. This diverse business landscape not only adds to the character of the area but also showcases the range of entrepreneurial ventures that thrive in our community.

The West End BIZ continues to support local businesses through various initiatives, fostering an environment that encourages growth and innovation.

Check out our website for the latest quarterly economic report.

West End Storefronts

In today's competitive retail landscape, first impressions start at the storefront. An inviting and well-maintained façade not only attracts customers but also fosters a sense of community and pride. In the West End, the visual appeal of our local businesses plays a crucial role in shaping our neighbourhood's character.

Recognizing the vital role of storefronts in our community's economic health, the West End BIZ offers grants and rebates specifically designed to assist local businesses with storefront improvements. These initiatives provide financial support for projects that enhance the appearance and functionality of commercial spaces.

What We Offer:

Storefront Improvement Grants: These grants help cover costs for renovations, signage, lighting, and landscaping. Whether you're looking to refresh your exterior or make significant changes, our funding can help ease the financial burden.

Storefront Improvement Rebates: We also offer rebates for specific improvements, if you have already completed work on your business and didn't apply for a grant, we can still help!

Investing in storefront improvements is not just about aesthetics; it's about creating a thriving community that benefits everyone. Let's work together to make the West End a destination known for its charm and character. To learn more about the West End BIZ's grant and rebate programs, visit our website: westendbiz.ca or contact Prashanta directly at prashanta@westendbiz.ca.



Feast Cafe Bistro



Wall Street Slice



Memory Lane Diecast & Collectables



Old House Revival



Pho Hoang



Prairie Studio Glass

Did You Know...

This summer, we successfully planted **311 planters and 55 hanging baskets** throughout the area, adding a burst of colour to our streets! Our maintenance team has been busy this year, removing over **4800 graffiti tags** and picking up over **4700 litres of litter**.

We're also thrilled to announce that **26 new BIZ banners** have been installed, with an additional **12 Central Park banners** expected to go up in October. Winnipeggers know the West End is the gateway to the heart of the city. Our refreshed banners placed around the neighbourhood are a visual reminder of the pride we hold in our community and brand the West End as an urban mosaic.

The BIZ team has been working on a new neighbourhood gateway feature on the southwest corner of our zone. This new gateway feature would accompany our two other major capital projects, Community Crossing and Community Corner.



Community Crossing



New West End BIZ Banners on Portage Avenue



Safety Patrols Walking the Beat

Safety Patrol Program

Thank you **Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries** for supporting our Safety Patrol program. The Safety Patrol program plays a vital role in ensuring our community feels safe and welcoming. Our dedicated Safety Patrol team are committed to enhancing the safety of residents, businesses, and visitors.

On average, our patrols walk over 15km a day throughout our entire zone. The team walks a cumulative total of 6000 km per year which is equal to the distance from Vancouver to Halifax! Our Safety Patrols also keep an eye on the neighbourhood by reporting any graffiti, garbage that needs to be removed or street furniture that needs fixing. To reach our patrols directly, please call 204-229-2502.

Member Services

Maintenance and Graffiti Department

We offer free graffiti removal services to all businesses, non-profit organizations and residents in the West End. Let us know if you have been tagged and we will send our Graffiti Team over to help! Email info@westendbiz.ca to make a graffiti report.

Economic Development Department

If you need a grant to improve your business storefront or you would like assistance with business safety, please email Prashanta at prashanta@westendbiz.ca.

Marketing and Communications Department

For event sponsorship, promotion and partnerships, please email Aurora at aurora@westendbiz.ca.

Street Beautification Department

For more information on our planter program, bike racks, murals or any street beautification project, please connect with Anna at anna@westendbiz.ca.

Safety Patrols and Ambassador Program Department

Our Safety Patrol Program offers safe walks to anyone in the West End area. If you would like a patrol walk with you please call them directly at (204) 229-2502.

Newest Businesses

Anthony Allan Office Furnishings
1111 Portage Ave

Ayurveda
1404 Notre Dame Ave

Capt'n Vape
992 Portage Ave

Caspian Dry Wall
1205 Richard Ave

Cold Turkey Vape Shop
1110 Portage Ave

Drew's Kapampangan Cuisine LTD
714 Sargent Ave

Feast of Africa
376 Furby St

Hab Barbershop
713 Sargent Ave

Head Rush tattoo
1116 Portage Ave

King Cob Market Pub
580 Ellice Ave

Lul Convenience Store
672 Sargent Ave

Millstone Cabinet Co
807 Erin St

WestEnd Therapy
759 Wall St

Performance Choice
984 Sargent Ave

Primo's Deli
686 Portage Ave

Tattoo Desperationz
912 Portage Ave

WestEnd Therapy
759 Wall St

Provincial Retail Theft Initiative

Our team continues to advocate for more resources to help tackle the rise in retail crime in our community. West End BIZ Executive Director, Joe Kornelsen spoke at the Manitoba governments funding announcement to establish a new retail crime task force.

Through the new retail crime task force, the business community has seen an increase in police presence in the area. The BIZ will continue to advocate for a safer West End for everyone.

