

# h.e.d. Lines

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## Chairman's Column

By HEDC Chairman Roger Lehmann



The governing board of the new Harvard/Woodstock/McHenry County Enterprise Zone met for the first time in October.

**Harvard City Administrator Dave Nelson**

and **Arrowhead Industrial Park developer Mark Stricker** represent Harvard on the five-member board.

**HEDC Executive Director Charles Eldredge** was appointed by the group as the zone's administrator.

The HEDC sees the enterprise zone as a way to help Harvard attract new employers and capitalize on the many benefits that our community has to offer to expanding companies. These include a quality workforce, affordable sites and a proactive city government that wants to see good growth happen.

The HEDC website will be updated as new enterprise zone information becomes available. The HEDC is also planning to host an educational event for local businesses in early 2016.

## Join us! Become an HEDC Member

You can learn more about the benefits of HEDC membership and to find out how you can play a role in Harvard's future at [www.harvardedc.com](http://www.harvardedc.com), or call (815) 943-1036 to receive a membership kit by email or regular mail.



## Need to Know...

### Arrowhead Industrial Park Building for Lease

Newer 7,200 sft. building. Office space, overhead doors, more. Divisible down to 1,800 sft. Call now: 815-943-8788.

### Bank Owned! Prime Retail/Mfg. Site

**FOR SALE:** Vacant 8.458 acres on McGuire Road, across from WalMart. Two parcels, zoned B-2, M-2. Ideal for grocery, retail, multi-use. Bank owned. In city. Access to McGuire Rd. and Frisco Dr. Call Verne Sisson at Harvard Savings Bank for details: (815) 943-8611.

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## Starline Shines in Second Act

The **Starline Factory** is proving once again that reinvention works.

The **Stanchion Pub** is officially open at the Starline Factory on Front Street. After several weeks of fine-tuning operations, the first floor café/pub is now open Thursday through Saturday for lunch and dinner, offering a menu of burgers, brats, steaks, salads and other assorted 'pub fare', as well as a full bar.

The restaurant is making good use of the commercial kitchen that was recently installed to support a busy event calendar with full in-house food and beverage service, according to **Starline event coordinator Teresa Baber**. "The Starline has grown to have a chef, cooks and a pool of close to 30 who do banquets, or serve as pub or kitchen staff," she noted.

That's in addition to the two event coordinators and an office administrator who are helping Starline Factory owner **Orrin Kinney** to realize his dream of creating a one-of-a-kind arts, entertainment and event venue in Harvard.

An outdoor terrace with fire pits, a grill and wall enclosures is in the works to offer outdoor dining in the spring. In the meantime, a big screen TV welcomes sports fans.

"There have been a lot of brainstorming sessions," said Baber of the Starline's evolution into a regional event and arts



destination. The facility attracts weddings and other events from a far-reaching area that includes Joliet, Naperville, Chicago and Rockford, Wisconsin and other states as far away as Oregon.

Most of the Starline's customers find the venue online or through word of mouth. "They either know someone who had an event here or attended one," she explained. "They can't find anything like

us between here and Chicago," she noted.

The Starline has evolved to have three event spaces, an on-site chapel and the capacity to host mid-week events. "We can host workshops, company meetings, and appreciation dinners in addition to Friday through Sunday events," Baber said.

Still in the 'deep thought' stage is a plan to develop guest rooms for overnight stays. More artist studios are also in the works. All 26 of the building's existing studios are leased and there is a waiting list of 'anxious artists', said Baber.

The Starline's **4th Fridays** events attract crowds nine months out of the year. October's event (the last one of the 2015 season) was expected to lure 500 - 1000 visitors to Harvard.

Baber and fellow event coordinator Jonathan Sara are charged with making it all happen seamlessly. "It is definitely never boring around here," she said.

Learn more at [www.starlinefactory.com](http://www.starlinefactory.com) or call (815) 943-4805.



## Mayor's Column

By Mayor Jay Nolan

There are good things happening throughout Harvard. Brown Bear Daycare is expanding. The bowling alley on Route 14 has new life and the pending enterprise zone promises to raise Harvard's visibility

with expanding and relocating companies.

**Harvard Community Radio** is doing well and in search of volunteers who would like to help provide programming by hosting a radio show or learning how to produce one. Volunteering at the station can be a good way to learn about a potential career in broadcasting. Contact the station at [harvardradio@gmail.com](mailto:harvardradio@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more.

The holiday season is here. Retail sales are very important to our community. Local retailers provide jobs, generate sales tax revenue to fund city services, attract visitors and help create a sense of community pride. Shop locally whenever you can.



## Hoping For A Strike

**Jay and Kelley Schulz** want Harvard families to have more recreational activities to choose from. To help make that happen, the couple have taken over the management of Harvard's 16-lane bowling alley and re-opened it as **Jay's Lanes**.

The Schulz's hope that new equipment, a brighter facility, expanded leagues, a video game room and an updated menu will score high with the community. "Our goal is to get families and children bowling," said Jay who, as general manager, is working to develop a high school bowling team and leagues for young children. Corporate and private events are also part of the plan.

The bowling alley has been part of the community in one form or another since 1957. "We want to keep bowling in Harvard and build on it," said Jay.

**Jay's Lanes** has a liquor license and hosts video gambling in a private room which requires customers to be 21 years old to enter. Future plans could include a 'Chuckee Cheese-style' game room, sand volleyball or batting cages.

A grand opening is planned for December. Learn more at [www.jslanes.com](http://www.jslanes.com) or call 943-4545

## Center Rises To Meet Demand

**Brown Bear Daycare and Learning Center** is expanding. The center is effectively doubling in size and will have more than 48,000 square feet under roof by May 2016.

According to **Executive Director Sheila Henson**, the project will increase the center's capacity to provide high quality care and educational opportunities for Harvard area children ages 0-6. A redesigned outdoor area incorporating trees, sand, water, hills and gardens will help 'bring children back to nature', said Henson.

Brown Bear Daycare currently has 211 children enrolled and a waiting list nearly seven months long. The expansion will add capacity for 125 more children.

The center has also obtained a license to operate an afterschool program at Crosby School beginning in January 2016. The Brown Bear Afterschool Program will operate from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year and is licensed for 120 students. The program will include homework help, nature walks, field trips and time to play, explained Henson.

Brown Bear Daycare received a \$3.2 million grant from the Illinois Capital Development Board in December 2012 to fund the expansion project. Contractors from Harvard and McHenry County are building the facility and Henson expects to hire up to 20 new teachers and staff members.

"This expansion project is helping economic development in Harvard," noted Henson, who is active in community organizations throughout the region, including the McHenry County Community Foundation, Harvard Community Radio, the Illinois Afterschool Network and the Harvard Chamber, and serves on the boards of the Harvard Economic Development Corporation, The Harvard State Bank and Harvard Milk Days.

"A community should work together to provide children with every opportunity for success," Henson said. "These children really are our future. Working as a team will help ensure that each child reaches his or her full potential."



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