

## A look at the new kids on the block



By Bill Ackerman

Sophia Lin, 5, of Wilmette, gets an assist in fastening a blue bow on her new pink bear from grandma Joy Crifase, of Downers Grove, at Candy Bear Lane on July 24. The store has been open for a week in the downtown area and is one of about several new businesses that have opened in the village since around the new year.

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Downers Grove Reporter  
Tue Jul 28, 2009, 11:25 AM CDT

Downers Grove, IL -

Even in a tough economy, more than a dozen new businesses have popped up in downtown Downers Grove since the turn of the new year.

A handful more are currently in the process of opening their doors.

Linda Kunze, downtown manager of Downers Grove Downtown Management Corp., said the boom in the central business district appears to be unique to the community. Kunze said downtown property owners have been working with their tenants during the past several months.

"I think in our town, yes, it has been difficult with the economy. Businesses have to tighten down. Property owners are talking to the business owners and reducing rent a little bit," Kunze said. "We want to keep our tenants."

One new tenant to Main Street is Lisa Koma, who opened Candy Bear Lane on July 17. Koma, of Barrington, said she grew up in Downers Grove and fond childhood memories drew her back.

"I always had a liking for the downtown area and thought it would be fun to have a shop downtown," Koma said. "The idea had been lingering in my head for a long time."

Candy Bear Lane is not your typical sugar shack. Koma has combined the candy retail with a "make your own bear" element, too.

Kunze said she has not heard of so many new shops opening in surrounding communities at this time. So what is the key to success?

"We have the (2009) Board (of Directors) put together our wish list of the businesses we are missing in the downtown," Kunze said.

From there, Kunze begins the recruitment process. From clothing to art, Kunze said her organization is trying to have something for everyone downtown.

"We're trying to keep a balance," Kunze said.

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#### **OPEN:**

NAME: Allen Lund Company  
ADDRESS: 5100 Main St., Suite 300  
TYPE: Freight Company  
CONTACT: allenlund.com

NAME: Blissful Spa  
ADDRESS: 5002A Main St.  
TYPE: Facial and nail salon  
CONTACT: myblissfulspa.com

NAME: Candy Bear Lane  
ADDRESS: 5221 Main St.  
TYPE: Candy and specialty teddy bears  
CONTACT: (630) 515-1077

NAME: Capri Ristorante  
ADDRESS: 5101 Main St.  
TYPE: Italian-style food  
CONTACT: capristoriante.com

NAME: The Williams Agency

ADDRESS: 5120 Main St., Suite 1A  
TYPE: Farmers insurance  
CONTACT: (630) 541-7383

NAME: Fitz and Tallon  
ADDRESS: 1001 Maple Ave.  
TYPE: Attorneys at law  
CONTACT: (630) 910-5533

NAME: Gabby's Gifts  
ADDRESS: 1008 Curtiss St., No. 2  
TYPE: Gift shop  
CONTACT: (630) 515-1435

NAME: Gatto's Restaurant and Bar  
ADDRESS: 5123 Main St.  
TYPE: Italian-style food  
CONTACT: gattosrestaurant.com

NAME: Green Real Estate  
ADDRESS: 928 Warren Ave., Suite 3  
TYPE: Real estate  
CONTACT: (630) 926-0105

NAME: Groveside Flowers and Gifts  
ADDRESS: 5117 Washington St.  
TYPE: Floral  
CONTACT: grovesideflowers.com

NAME: Remedy  
ADDRESS: 947 Burlington Ave.  
TYPE: Chiropractic care, message therapy, acupuncture and nutrition consultation  
CONTACT: (630) 324-6013

NAME: Ruelle Salon  
ADDRESS: 5224 Main St., First floor  
TYPE: Salon  
CONTACT: (630) 324-6332

NAME: Nelson & Associates, Green Design  
ADDRESS: 5224 Main St., Second floor  
TYPE: Architects  
CONTACT: (630) 541-6140

NAME: Stabile Investment Management  
ADDRESS: 5201 Washington St., Suite 4  
TYPE: Financial services  
CONTACT: (630) 964-0303

NAME: Suburban Home Care  
ADDRESS: 5111 Main St.  
TYPE: In home care  
CONTACT: (630) 964-9000

NAME: Toscana's Italian Restaurant  
ADDRESS: 5001 Main St.  
TYPE: Italian-style food  
CONTACT: (630) 968-1715

**COMING SOON:**

NAME: Larson Eye Center  
ADDRESS: 4958 Forest Ave.  
TYPE: Eye doctor and eye accessories  
CONTACT: larsoneyecenter.com

NAME: Lemon Tree Grocery Store  
ADDRESS: 935 Burlington Ave. (Acadia on the Green building three)  
TYPE: Specialty grocer  
CONTACT: (630) 725-0991

NAME: Lindemann Law  
ADDRESS: 5100 Main St., Second floor  
TYPE: Attorney at law  
CONTACT: (630) 353-0700

NAME: Sparkles Dance Studio and Fitness  
ADDRESS: 5151 Mochel Drive  
TYPE: Dance and fitness  
CONTACT: (630) 725-0991