



SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

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Park marks downtown revitalization progress

New green space expected to be focal point of blooming area.

By Everdeen Mason, Staff Writer

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SPRINGFIELD — After months of delay, the National Road Commons green space is complete and open to the Springfield community.

More than 100 people came out to celebrate the opening of the \$2.5 million park at 50 W. Main St. on Friday.

The park is one of the main catalysts for revitalizing downtown, which is one of the five goals for the Greater Springfield Moving Forward initiative, Mike McDorman said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

McDorman is president and CEO of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

Community leaders who spoke at the event, including Clark County Commission President John Detrick, cited the renovation of the Bushnell Building and the new Springfield Regional Medical Center as proof of downtown revitalization.

“And right in the middle we have (National Road Commons) as an amenity for people to relax,” Detrick said. “We’ve had more than \$1 billion in capital investments in this part of the city, which is more than we’ve had in the last 75 years.”

Cincinnati-based developer Develco Inc. has purchased land to build Commons Overlook, a 60,000-square-foot facility including offices, medical suites and retail on the west side of National Road Commons, according to the Chamber. Officials said there are only 10,000 square feet of space left to lease, and once that is filled, developers will break ground.

The event Friday also celebrated the move of the Madonna of the Trail monument to a more visible location.

The Madonna, the first of 12 markers along the National Old Trail Road that runs coast to coast, was moved to the park on Sept. 22.

“This is not the end; it’s only the beginning,” Mayor Warren Copeland said at the ribbon-cutting. “There is so much more to be done.”

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