Zumba shaking things up at Escalade Sports

A worldwide fitness phenomenon is now coming out of Olney, Illinois. Escalade Sports (aka US Weights) has expanded their production to include the Zumba brand weights.

Richland County Retail Climate Grows Significantly

Richland County’s first business redevelopment project to locate in the new Route 130 Tax Increment Financing area.

Rural King Supply opened its new location’s doors in spring of 2012. The former Wal-Mart retail center was acquired from The Kroenke Group this year by the owners of the local Rural King Supply to relocate and expand their Olney retail presence. Richland County Development Corp. first began discussing the renovation potential in spring 2009, however financial analysis had to be completed prior to this project moving forward. This is the first redevelopment of the former Richland County Mall, however a full revitalization plan and contract has been executed for the site by The Kroenke Group. The renovations are planned to begin in 2013 with the announcement of storefronts still pending. In addition to the growth in the Richland County Mall, a new Dollar Tree has opened in March 2013 in place of Fashion Bug, who as a franchise closed stores nationwide in January 2013. Also retail expansions are under construction on East Main Street for Dollar General and Roll With It Bakery which are both slated to be open for business in 2013.

This product is featured in their televised advertising campaign. Escalade has expanded their employment base creating two additional lines, which offered twenty-two new full-time positions. RCDC and the City of Olney helped to facilitate this by drafting a Development Agreement to incentivize the company for creating and retaining local jobs for Olney.
Building International Partnerships

Richland County Development Corporation Director Brandi Stennett is anticipating a positive outcome of being a participant this year in an international business recruitment trade mission slated for October 2013. Uniting with Economic Development professionals from several other communities, the group plans to meet in China with business professionals to discuss development prospects. A meeting with an agency representing 8,000 Chinese businesses in Shanghai is one of the business prospects. This trip will represent the third visit for the lead agency Morton Economic Development Council to China in two years. The Illinois community economic development professionals planning the event foresee the building of momentum for expanding and strengthening business and personal relationships between themselves and the Chinese business community as a result of the event.

City of Olney Expands Infrastructure for Businesses

Richland County’s local economy has remained steady and fiscally solvent through the past national recession, and now local businesses are positioned for the return of reinvestment into their companies and community. Richland County Development Corporation has been proud to assist with the planned expansion of Herman Drive to open an additional 40 acres of industrial and commercial property to qualifying businesses for new construction. Wease Equipment Inc., owned by Aaron and Julie Wease were the first to sign a development agreement with the City of Olney for five acres to build their Tractor Trailer Diesel Repair Shop. Wease Equipment has committed to expanding their workforce and has doubled their employees since moving to their new location. Runyon Oil Tools, Inc. and A.M. Transport, Inc. have also worked with RCDC in expansion locations and acquiring additional property immediately off of Herman Drive. The City has platted the twenty-five acres remaining and will be marketing this property from continued investment.

Richland County the Fiber Hub of Central Illinois

The Illinois Century Network and Clearwave Communications are improving broadband access for education, health care, government and public safety institutions to rural, economically distressed communities across a 79 county region in Illinois with the two suppliers meeting in Olney, Illinois. The project will construct new fiber and upgrade existing fiber as part of the Illinois Century Network (ICN), the state’s existing education network and constructing a new Clearwave network. More than 400 community anchor institutions will be directly connected via fiber including 28 community colleges. The new fiber backbone will support speeds of up to 1.6 terabits per second. This speed is hundreds of times faster than the current network and user speeds ranging from 10 megabits to 10 gigabits per second, and more than six-times the current speeds of the majority of the community anchor institutions.