

A dark, foggy alleyway between industrial buildings. The scene is dimly lit, with a heavy mist or fog obscuring the background. On the left, a building with a blue door and a metal fence is visible. On the right, a building with horizontal siding and a satellite dish is seen. Utility poles with multiple wires stretch across the alleyway. The overall atmosphere is desolate and industrial.

Filling Empty Buildings



Why do owners keep the buildings empty?



If unattended the attitude of despair sets in







DEB BROWN

WEBSTER CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*"I thought, instead of hiding the buildings,
let's look at them. Let's talk about them.*

Let's do a tour of them."

smallbizsurvival.com

Small town economic development idea: The Tour of Empty Buildings



Chamber Champions

- Retired Chamber members were asked to join us and tell the stories about what was in the building before and share any ideas they had.
- *Art Downard used to own the movie theatre.*

Realtors and Owners

Realtors and owners when possible were also present and answered questions about square footage, price, details and more.

Tyler Abens, Abens Realty with two customers

Sandy Van Hauen of Jim Fortune Realty, showed one of the Mexican restaurants





12
Buildings
were on
the tour

5 are sold

3 are rented,

1 is being negotiated on,

1 had a business in it and is now vacant again,

2 have not been rented.

Do the Math – 66% of those empty buildings now have a business in them!



Saved the movie theater



Incubator space

-ANTIQUES-



Any town can do this because the magic is in the conversations you create, not in the buildings themselves.









COFFEE BEANS PLANNING

Dutch Lady
ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES

MEET

SHOP

EAT

DRINK





With the City again looking to push the vacant building ordinance for commercial buildings in the Central business district, we hope to see continued strides towards toward properties becoming available for commercial use. We have seen some positive developments with this recently and hope to see more. The CDC is currently working to find suitable available space for two entrepreneurs looking to start businesses in Centerville. The vacant building ordinance may play a crucial role in helping to see space become available for these new businesses to happen.

Christiana Ostrem will officially be announcing that she intends to open a coffee shop/café in downtown Centerville later this year. The Dev Corp has been offering her guidance and resources for various business planning and businesses assistance. This will be another exciting new business to open its doors in downtown Centerville.

Welcome to

STANHOPE



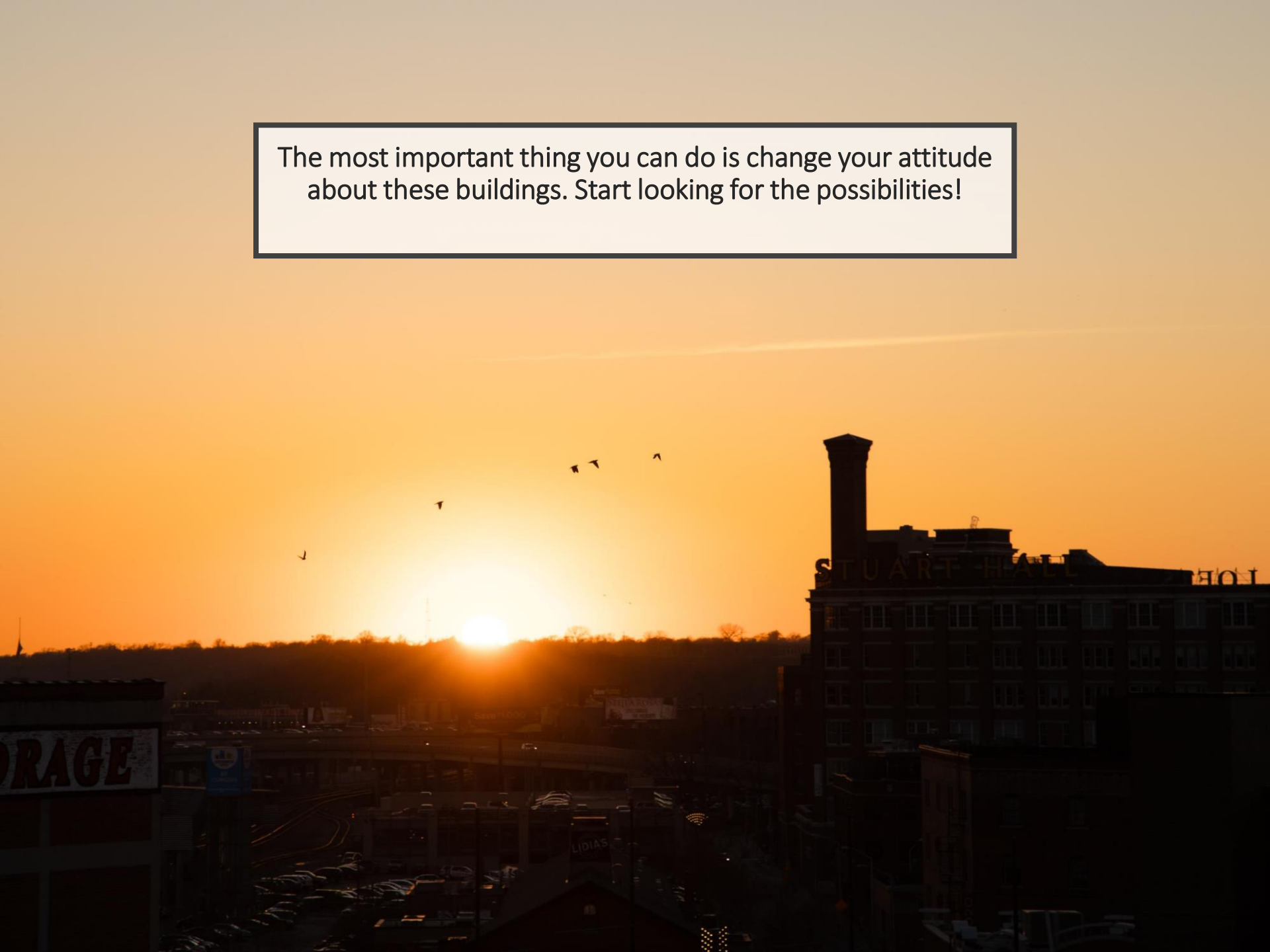
**A Slice Of
The Good Life**

1883 - 2008 125 Years

Hamilton County

Watermelon Day July 21, 2012

The most important thing you can do is change your attitude about these buildings. Start looking for the possibilities!



Deb Brown

www.saveyour.town

Video this month is:

Creating Events People Want to Attend