



East Village revival coming gradually

By PATT JOHNSON

Proponents of the retail, commercial and residential neighborhood that is coming back to life in the shadow of the Iowa Capitol say the slow but steady progress in transforming East Village from languishing to lively is happening in bits and pieces rather than by leaps and bounds.

Series

first in an

exploring

business

that are in

transition.

This article is the

occasional series

neighborhood

districts in the

Des Moines area

"Things like this take time," said Steve Logsdon, who owns the Basil Prosperi restaurant and bakery at 407 E. Fifth St. and plans to open a second eatery in East Village. "Our culture wants everything to happen overnight. But I can't afford to do it like that."

The charm of the developing, nine-block area

— bordered roughly by East Fourth, Des Moines, East Sixth and East Walnut streets is the eclectic mix of tenants, new and old, who have made a commitment to create a neighborhood with housing, retail shops and entertainment.

"Our strength is the unique, quality businesses that are here," said Connie Boesen, who manages Sticks Gallery at 521 E. Locust St.

See EAST VILLAGE, Page 2D

What you can find at East Village

ART

Absolute Art Gallery Fine art gallery; mixed mediums; lowa artists

2 Sticks Gallery
Whimsical art portrayed on
a variety of items; art
objects from at least 50
other American craft artists

BANK

3 Iowa State Bank

BARS

A Blazing Saddle
Bills itself as Des Moines'
favorite gay bar

Doozies

Bar and grill in the Embassy Suites hotel on the river

Faces Lounge Tavern

Neighborhood bar where nobody knows your name

DINING

8 Baby Boomers A retro, '50s-style restaurant that opened last spring

Basil Prosperi
Restaurant and bakery that

seats about 35

teahouse

Gong Fu Tea
You name the tea, they have
it at this one-of-a-kind

Grounds for Celebration Coffeehouse and eatery also has a catering business

12 Noodle Zoo
Popular noontime eatery
with a signature pasta salad

13 Olympic Flame Gobs of Greek grub at this mainstay of East Village

Taste of Thailand
Popular with politicos and other cognoscenti

GROCERY

New Oriental Food Store
The name says it all

HISTORY

IG Iowa State Historical
Building
Keeper of all things ancien

Keeper of all things ancient in lowa

Iv lowa Genealogical

Society Library for people researching their geneology

HOTE

118 Embassy Suites
Riverside hotel with view of
Iowa Capitol and downtown

SHOPPING

20 American Plumbing Supply Co.

An original tenant that offers plumbing supplies

21 Eden

Bath and body boutique

722 The Atlantean New age shop that sells herbs, candles, jewelry,

music

23 Dirk's Guitars

Dirk buys, sells and trades

vintage guitars, etc.

22 Bargain Basket

Thrift shop operated by
Junior League

25 Fusion Furniture
Asian antiques and metal
office furniture that has

retro appeal

26 Kham's Jewelry

Gold necklaces, bracelets, rings and other baubles

27 Kitchen CollageGourmet cook's fantasyland,

with gadgets galore and a pot for every sauce

Lawson's Books
To close at the end of the year

Museum Store
Largest selection of books
about lowa

30 Oak & Shield

Renaissance accoutrements, including costumes, swords and shields

31 Projects Contemporary Furniture

Upscale furniture

32 Schaffer's Bridal and formal wear

33 Solar Loan and Sales Co.

Pawn shop that offers gift certificates and an everchanging inventory

34 ZZZ Records

Independent music store featuring new and used CDs, cassettes, LPs and more

PHARMACY

Hammer Pharmacy
A medical supply store



PHOTOS BY ROBERT NANDELL