



Search

Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Home News Business Obituaries Editorials Sports Entertainment Lifestyles Publications

Jobs Cars Homes Advertising

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize

Cities conference gave leaders ideas to grow

The Lowell Sun

Updated: 06/28/2010 10:23:38 AM EDT

LOWELL -- Hosting last week's 2010 Innovative Cities conference not only gave Lowell a chance to share its story, but gave local leaders a chance to learn from the experiences of others.

"It really reinforced the idea of Lowell as a city where people from other cities come to talk about how cities work," said Paul Marion, executive director of community and cultural affairs for UMass Lowell.

Representatives from Ann Arbor, Mich., and Portland, Ore., were among those sharing their success stories.

Adam Baacke, Lowell's assistant city manager, was struck by Portland's story, "which started out as an effort to improve the lives of the people who lived there. They worked to make it the best they could for the residents and when it became successful it turned into a tremendous economic development story. Other businesses and residents were attracted to its livability, a place people wanted to be. It drew entrepreneurs and there's a nice symbiotic relationship between retail and residents."

Making one's city livable is "a very common-sense thing," said Marion, "but it can be a strategy, too. They also said they have a 12 percent bicycle commuter rate, far above the national average. And they're trying to get it up to 33 percent."

He said that's "very much in line" with city planner Jeff Speck's "pedestrian-friendly" vision for Lowell.

Marion is also impressed with Ann Arbor, Mich., and its "emphasis on talent."

"Some 60 percent of people

living in Ann Arbor have college degrees. That's double the national average," he said.

Such an educated core draws research, business and other talents and "it's a replenishable resource," said Marion. "And that's in line with what (UMass Lowell Chancellor) Marty Meehan is talking about of Lowell. It's enhancing the idea of when you have a college in town, making it a real education center."

Advertisement

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY
 Search for a Local Business
 Business Name or Type Location

Learn how to effectively advertise your business online

Popular News

Most Viewed Recent Comments Most Emailed

1. Fletcher Granite shutdown leaves workers crying foul
2. Fire damages Billerica home
3. Arrest Log: 7/5/2010
4. Truck mishap blacks out downtown, closes highway
5. Police: Woman jumped out window on purpose
6. About a dozen left homeless by fire on Coral St.

HEADLINES BY FEEDBURNER

Ask the Expert

Featured Expert:
George Malliaros
 Legal



[Ask me a question](#)

[More Advice and Experts:](#)

Bankruptcy Law

Top Classifieds

Autos Homes Rentals Jobs

▶ **TIMBERLEE PARK NEIGHBORHO**

[ALL LISTINGS](#)

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize Return to Top

Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the Terms of Service and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. The host of this board reserves the right to remove posts with personal information or comments, personal attacks, foul language, and posts that are off-topic, spam or infringe on individual copyright. Repeated violation of these standards will result in banning from the board.

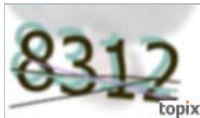
POST YOUR COMMENTS:

Type in your comments below

Name
(appears
on your
post)

Comments

Type the numbers
you see in the
image on the
right:



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. [Send us your feedback](#).

[Local Certified Electric Contractor](#)

Reliable and Affordable
www.SylvesterElectric.com


[Jobs In Lowell](#)

Positions Open in Lowell.Hiring
Immediately-Apply Here
JobsFinder.com

[Lowell Suzuki Dealer](#)

Looking for a New Car? Check Out Our
Dealerships for
weei.radiotown.com/suzuki

Ads by Yahoo!

[Copyright Notice](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Information](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [RSS](#)  [MY YAHOO!](#)
[About Our Ads](#) | [MNGi Corporate Site Map](#) | [NIE](#) | [Weather Data](#) © Copyright 2007 CustomWeather, Inc |

© Copyright 2010  Media News Group WEBSITE
Media News group