

# *Ahead of Schedule*

*JU Jobs Goal Met Two Years Early*

***Plus:***

***Letter To Our Investors  
Record Tax Collections  
Projects Still On Track  
NYITCOM Makes Impact***

# ***Our New Normal***

## ***Covid-19 Will Bring Out Our Best***

Dear Jonesboro Unlimited Supporters,

To say we are living in uncertain times is an understatement. Our city, state, and the country has not been through a crisis like the current pandemic in generations. While the current and future impact will be determined and measured later, there is one factor that cannot be measured.

Our Resolve!

During the pandemic and following the tornado, we have seen our community band together. Problem-solving, caring, and selflessness are traits that continue to shine through. That is why we will be even stronger following the crisis. I believe this because, after our commitment to our faith and families, we are committed to the economic prosperity of Jonesboro and the region in which we live.

We are witnessing incredible acts of smart business practices and grace during this chapter in our history. We have all heard the often-used narrative of being in this together. It's another thing to see it in action. THANK YOU for all of your hard work and leadership to keep our community working and producing.

Our strategic plan continues to serve us well. It is applicable in the best of times as well as the most challenging times.

We are here to support you. If we can be a resource, please let us know.

Together we are Jonesboro Unlimited.

Sincerely,



# ***Passing The Mark***

## ***JU Beats 5-Year Goal In Three Years***

The goal was 2,500 direct new jobs in five years. With over 900 direct new jobs added in 2019, it was met in three.

Since 2017, Over 3,000 high-paying jobs have been created across Jonesboro Unlimited's five target industries: agriculture, healthcare, logistics, manufacturing, and professional services.

[The job numbers](#) come from Jonesboro Unlimited's Annual Inventory of New and Expanded Industries and represent responses from nearly 100 local companies. Healthcare and manufacturing saw the most significant gains in 2019 with 397 and 392 new jobs, respectively.

"It's exciting to be able to announce today that we have already achieved one of our key goals by adding 2,500 direct new jobs to Jonesboro's economy. While we are pleased with the progress, more work needs to be done, remaining dedicated to the advancement of economic prosperity in Jonesboro and throughout the region. We are meeting these goals through the commitment, dedication, and determination of our investors and local employers. We are looking forward to another exciting year ahead," said Chris Barber, Chairman of Jonesboro Unlimited.

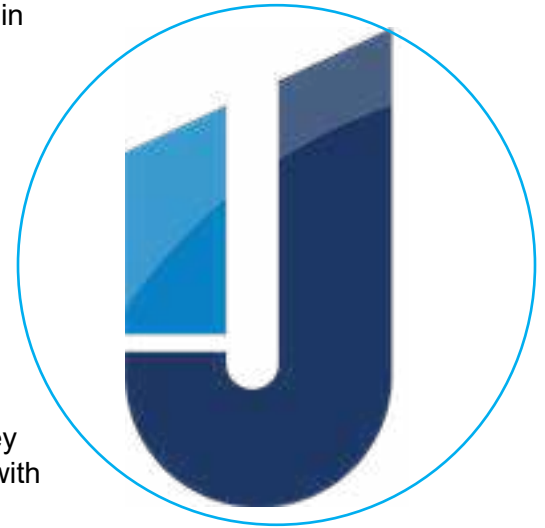
"When you consistently add jobs to your economy for several years in a row, you are doing something right," said Mark Young, President of Jonesboro Unlimited.

Three years into the five-year plan, Jonesboro has added 3,123 high-paying jobs to the economy, passing the five-year goal by more than 600 new jobs. Positions in healthcare and manufacturing account for 84% of the total jobs created since 2017.

The survey also revealed how local companies are reinvesting in their products, people, and services. Capital expenditures nearly tripled from 2018 to 2019. Companies taking part in the survey reported \$275M in capital spending in 2019. Over the last three years, the total amount of capital investment in Jonesboro is nearing half-a-billion dollars at \$474 million.

Jonesboro Unlimited also premiered a new video series designed to help attract highly-skilled people to Jonesboro. The videos feature people who have recently moved to Jonesboro from much larger cities and how they have discovered what a special place Jonesboro is.

The video series was created by Jonesboro Unlimited's Director of Communications, Craig Rickert, and produced by [Workhorse Creative Productions](#) of Jonesboro. The stories are posted on [YouTube](#), the [Jonesboro Unlimited Facebook page](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Jonesborounlimited.com](#).



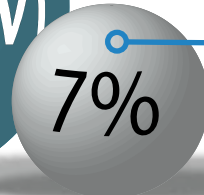
# ***Sales Tax Revenue***

*City & County Combined (2.0%)*



**2020** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

Collected in March. Largest total in March since 2012



**2019** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

Increase in collections from 1st quarter of 2018



**2018** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

Increase in collections over 1st quarter of 2017



# Commercial Development

E.C. Barton and Company has re-branded its chain of Bargain Outlet and Surplus Warehouse stores under one new name. [Barton's Home Outlet](#) will be the new banner for Bartons' 95 locations in 17 states. Sixteen stores have already re-branded, including the Jonesboro location on Caraway Road. The remaining stores will be re-branded over the course of the year.



A new coin-operated and drop-off laundra-mat opening in February in Jonesboro. [Laundry Xpress](#) is located at 2402 Phillips Drive in the building that formerly housed Hotwired Car Audio. Laundry Xpress offers both do-it-yourself laundry or you can leave your clothes with them and they will wash and fold it for you.



[Delta Risk Management](#) is Downtown Jonesboro's newest business. Delta Risk Management is located at 245 South Main Street in the office formerly occupied by Attorney Scott Emerson. They specialize in crop insurance and risk management plans for farmers in 17 states.



A new, two-story storage facility is under construction at 3406 Access Road in Jonesboro. The \$1.3M permit was filed by Stonebridge Construction to build the 300-unit facility for [Secura Self Storage](#). This will be the company's second facility in the area. Secura's other self storage site is in Pargould.

[Stonebridge Construction](#) has moved into their new office building at The Reserve at Hill Park. Stonebridge was formerly located on Longview Drive. The new building is one of seven projects that are recently finished or under construction in the Reserve at Hill Park.



[Old Dominion Freight Line](#) has opened its new Jonesboro facility on Nestle Road. The \$8M project opened on March 27th and features 44 truck bays. The new site replaces the former Old Dominion facility on Gulley Road. Twenty-six people work out of the new Old Dominion facility.



[The Pain Treatment Centers of America](#) has opened its new clinic and offices in The Reserve at Hill Park. The \$3.4M project got underway last spring and officially opened in January.



[Benjamin F. Edwards Investments](#) bought the former AllCare Pharmacy on Windover Road late last year and held its Grand Opening in January. The firm was previously located at an office on SW Drive. Benjamin F. Edwards is based in St. Louis and has 70 locations throughout the country including four in Arkansas.

# Healthcare

## ***NYITCOM Matches First Graduating Class***

The first crop of doctors from NYITCOM at Arkansas State University are now residents, taking the next step in their medical careers.

In March, NYITCOM held its very first “match” ceremony. The “match” is the day when graduating medical school students find out where they will be working in their residency programs.

The numbers for this inaugural class were outstanding with 95% of the new doctors being placed. Seventy-two percent of them are now in primary care programs.

Perhaps most importantly is the fact that NYITCOM at Arkansas State reports that nearly half of those residents will perform their residencies in the state of Arkansas or a state in the Mississippi Delta.

That is significant because states in the Mississippi Delta are consistently ranked as some of the poorest in terms of health of the general population and access to quality medical care. Sending new doctors into these communities not only elevates the care for the people most affected by a lack of care, it helps to fulfill the mission of NYITCOM to bolster medical care in areas of the country that are currently underserved

## ***St. Bernards Launches New App***

A new virtual-care program has been launched by St. Bernards Healthcare. The [St. Bernards Go app](#) became available on February 1st.

The app allows patients in Arkansas to connect with a doctor or APRN via video without having to visit an urgent care. St. Bernards is the only hospital in the area that offers this new service.

“Launching St. Bernards Go is another step in our ongoing commitment to make healthcare in northeast Arkansas as accessible and convenient as possible,” said Chris Barber, President, and CEO of St. Bernards Healthcare.

Using the app allows a Jonesboro-based medical professional to diagnose things like allergies, the common cold, cough, and flu-like symptoms to name a few. After the online visit, the provider can diagnose, suggest a follow-up visit and prescribe medication as appropriate.

St. Bernards Go is available for both IOS and Android users.



# ***Project Updates***

## ***Ritter Data Center Stays On Schedule***

The building is in the dry, and work is happening on both the interior and exterior of [Ritter Communications](#)' \$8M Data Technology Center.

Inside, the access floor is complete. That allows for the installation of large pieces of electrical equipment and cable trays. The window frames are going in between the NOC (Network Operations Center), the data center, and the conference rooms. The NOC, offices, and conference rooms are being finished and painted with ceilings and flooring coming soon.

Outside, concrete work is in full swing with curbs and paving about to begin. After that, the pouring of sidewalks and the final phase of landscaping will begin, setting the stage for the Grand Opening sometime this summer.



## ***Downtown Project Set For Summer Opening***

The [University Lofts](#) project in Downtown Jonesboro is nearing completion. Dominic Esposito, who manages the facility for Jetton Construction, says a Grand Opening is planned for July 15. When completed the multi-million dollar project will house 68 micro-loft apartments ranging in size from 360-550 square feet.

University lofts will also house three commercial spaces on the ground floor facing Union Avenue. The largest of the three spaces is already spoken for. [Jetton General Contracting](#) will be moving their corporate headquarters into the building.



## ***Delta Peanut Closing In On Completion***

Things continue to move ahead at the [Delta Peanut site](#) in the Craighead Technology Park. Dirk Lindsey, the COO of Delta Peanut says everything has been business as usual with the exception of the extra precautions being taken to keep employees and contractors safe.

Currently, the construction focus is on building the shelling plant and the cold storage area. The goal of finishing during the summer is still intact. Lindsey says they plan to start processing peanuts in early to mid-summer.



# Commercial Construction

*1st Quarter Totals 2018-2020*



**2020** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

- Includes 21 permits for alterations
- Includes \$3.2M in new construction



**2019** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

- 23 Permits for commercial alterations: Value \$6.9M



**2018** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

- Largest single quarter since 2011 (\$176M)

*Permit totals include: new construction, apartments, additions, alterations, & signs*



# ***Residential Construction***

***1st Quarter Totals 2018-2020***

**2020** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

53 permits for single-family  
homes filed in March



**2019** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

Includes 105 permits for  
single-family homes



**2018** / *jan  
thru  
mar*

Includes \$6.4M in duplex  
construction (42 permits)



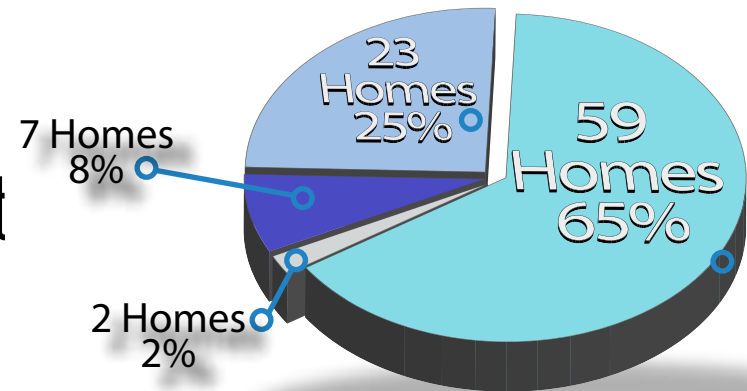
*Permit totals include: new homes, additions, alterations, duplex, storage, & swimming pools*

# New Home Sales

*1st Quarter Sales 2019-2020*

91  
Homes  
Sold

**2020** / *jan  
feb  
mar*  
Equals record-setting 1st  
quarter from 2019



\$0-\$100K

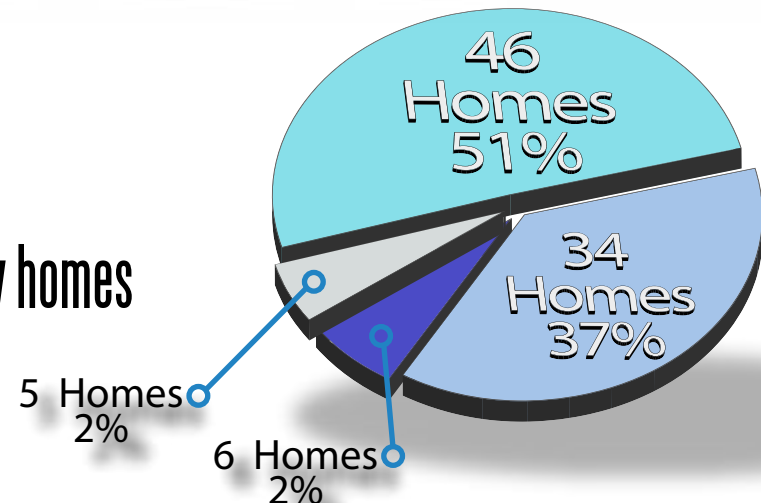
\$100-\$200K

\$200-\$250K

\$250K & Up

91  
Homes  
Sold

**2019** / *jan  
feb  
mar*  
Highest total of new homes  
sold on record



# Existing Home Sales

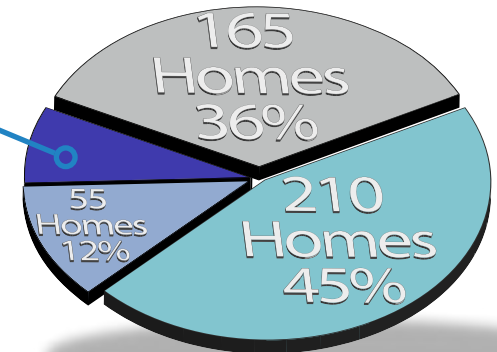
*1st Quarter Totals: 2019-2020*

465  
Homes  
Sold

2020 / *jan  
feb  
mar*

Most homes sold in the 1st  
quarter on record

35 Homes  
7%



\$0-\$100K

\$100-\$200K

\$200-\$250K

\$250K & Up

405  
Homes  
Sold

2019 / *jan  
feb  
mar*

Same 1st quarter sales total  
as 1st quarter of 2018

21 Homes  
5%

