

Downtown Scoop

**Warsaw Community
Development Corporation
(574) 267-6419**

Feb/March 2009

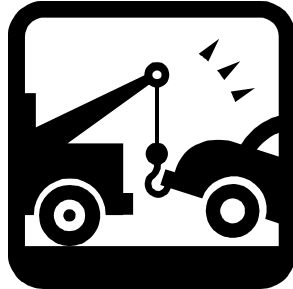
City Enacts New Parking Ordinance

In July of 2008, Warsaw Chief of Police Perry Hunter met with downtown residents and building owners to discuss downtown parking issues. Over the past several months parking (or lack thereof) has continued to be a hot topic for discussion.

On Monday, February 16, 2009 the Warsaw City Council passed Ordinance No. 2009-02-05. There are several sections to this ordinance and it addresses a host of different parking issues such as prohibited parking areas, parallel and angle parking, and improper parking. The ordinance also specifically spells out the fines attached to various infractions.

Downtown residents and employees will quite possibly be impacted by some of the stipulations. According to the ordinance "Any illegally parked vehicle for which there are

three or more outstanding, unpaid and overdue parking tickets for a period of 90 days or



more may be immobilized through the use of wheel locks. Any vehicle that has been immobilized through the use of wheel locks is to remain immobilized until an immobilization fee and penalties related to all outstanding parking tickets and penalties owed to the City are paid in full."

Notices will be affixed to the vehicle's windshield to identify the fact that wheel locks have

been attached, and the notice will warn that any attempt to move the vehicle may result in damage to the vehicle.

Notices will also identify the total amount of the unpaid fines, and will provide contact information for getting the wheel locks removed. An immobilization fee of \$50 will be added to the total amount of civil penalties for unpaid parking tickets.

Vehicles that extend over the lines or markings that designate a parking space will be ticketed. Parking in alleys or blocking the entrance to a parking lot or drive is also prohibited.

Parameters for towing vehicles are included in the new ordinance, as well as an itemized listing of fines that will be levied for each violation.

Main Street Notes:

The WCDC corresponds regularly with other Main Street communities to keep abreast of trends and ideas.

WCDC has offered to host a Main Street Regional Meeting, as well as either the 2009 or 2010 Main Street Conference. It will be several weeks before the locations are selected.

Tidbits Related to Economic Woes:

- In difficult economic times one of the first things retailers may seek to do is eliminate staff. This move may actually cost more than it saves. Customers tend to avoid places with long lines, as well as businesses that don't have enough staff to answer questions and assist with purchases.

Businesses Needed to Help "Turn the Town Pink"



Local Attorney Dana Leon Huffer is working with the Vera Bradley Foundation to organize a "Turn the Town Pink" campaign in Warsaw.

The campaign is designed to raise funds for breast cancer awareness and research. A \$5 donation provides a pink ribbon in memory or honor

of someone whose life has been affected by breast cancer. Plans include an April kick-off ceremony and a display of the ribbons on the courthouse lawn.

If your business is willing to host a donation can and sign-up sheet, please contact the WCDC office at 267-6419 or wcdc@kconline.com.

- During stressful economic times people gravitate to comfort foods, and small indulgences.
- Retail experts say this isn't the time to hibernate. Don't be defensive, get aggressive & set aggressive goals.

New Downtown Businesses



Scott Smith, Attorney at Law, is in the process of relocating his law practice to the former “Accent in Interior Design”

building located at 111 E. Center Street. Scott is a former deputy prosecuting attorney, and his practice specializes in personal injury, criminal law, civil litigation, business law, family law, OWI/DUI, driving license issues and worker’s compensation law.

Giverny Fitness will open at 207 S. Buffalo Street in mid-March. Owners Missy Cook and Kelly Britton will offer group exercise

classes, including Boot Camp, FitBall, Body Sculpt, Cardio Kickboxing, Yoga, Pilates, Hip Hop and Zumba. Kids classes will include FitKids, YogaKids and Zumba Kids.

Hours of operation are Monday—Thursday 5:30 am to 9 pm, Friday 5:30 am to 1:00 pm (plus an evening Co-ed Zumba class), and Saturday 7 am to 10:30 am. Childcare will be available Monday—Friday from 9 am to 1 pm, and Monday—Thursday from 4:30 pm to 9 pm.

Personal training services will be provided by Jim Mills and Cory Hill of Personal Coach. Personal Coach hours are Monday—Friday from 6 am to 7 pm, and Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm.

More details are available at www.GivernyFitness.com

Ruby, a boutique for the trendsetting fashionista, is celebrating its second anniversary, and the launch of a new department featuring vintage clothing primarily from the 60’s and 70’s. Dubbed the “ruby low-down basement,” the vintage boutique is for those who love to dress differently.

The vintage shopping area will feature “one-of-a-kind” selections with prices starting at \$5.00. Items include clothing, purses and jewelry. Shopping hours are Monday—Friday 11 am to 6 pm, and Saturday from 10am to 4 pm..

Make plans to check out all of these downtown businesses soon.

First Round of 2009 Façade Grant Apps Due March 31st

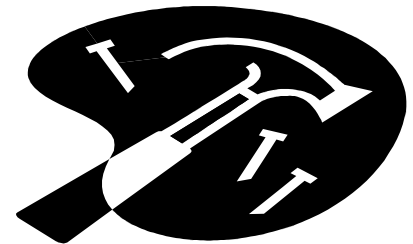
The WCDC is currently accepting façade grant applications for the first grant period of 2009. Interested persons may pick up applications at the WCDC office at 117 W. Center Street, or they may call 267-6419 to have an application faxed or e-mailed.

Projects are limited to buildings located in the Historic Courthouse C-4 District. Due to a significant reduction in 2009 funding,

priority will be given to projects that involve structural façade renovations as opposed to awnings and signage.

Applications for the first 2009 grant period must be received by **March 31, 2009**. Notification of awards will be made on or about April 15th. If any funds remain after the first grant period of 2009, a second grant period will be advertised, and appli-

cations will be accepted until July 31, 2009.



Kosciusko REMC Co-op Connections Card Program

Kosciusko REMC (KREMC) is expanding its “Co-op Connections Card” program and is inviting additional businesses to participate. The Co-op Connections Card program has the ability to promote your business to over 17,000 KREMC members. Another perk is a listing in the National Co-op Card database that serves more than four million members across the country.

It does not cost anything to participate in this program, and businesses don’t have to

be served by KREMC to be involved. There are already a few downtown businesses taking advantage of this program.

In order to participate, businesses must agree to provide a discount/special offer to Co-op Connection Card holders for a period of one year. Some of the discounts and special programs currently offered include percentage discounts, specific dollar reductions, and a free cookie or drink with a meal purchase.

Participating businesses are provided stickers to display on store windows or near cash registers, and Co-op Connection Card Holders receive lists of participating businesses along with their Co-op Connection Card. Customers must present their card in order to qualify for special discounts.

More information on this program, as well as an agreement form, is included with this newsletter. Interested businesses may also check www.KREMC.com for information.