

The Light From the Window

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2009 Wrap-Up and 2010 Plans

While 2009 was a tough year for most businesses, it appears that downtown Warsaw is alive and “hanging in there.” Even though two businesses closed their doors and two relocated, eight new businesses opened in the downtown area in 2009.

Even better than that is the news that at least two more new businesses plan to open within the next 30 days. Couple that with some proposed renovation plans for at least one major downtown building, and it looks like 2010 is off to a good start.

WCDC’s 2009 activities were somewhat curtailed by economic factors, but the initial word is that there might be some Main Street grant monies available in 2010. We certainly hope so because that will help us to accomplish our goal of

planning regular media coverage to promote downtown Warsaw.

The WCDC participated in the Chamber’s Taste & Trade Expo for the second year, and it was once again a very positive experience. The Expo gives the WCDC an opportunity to make consumers aware of all the great businesses in downtown Warsaw.

The WCDC hosted its first “Downtown Open House” in 2009. This event showcased 13 downtown properties that were either for sale or lease. More open houses are planned for 2010.

A couple of new downtown events are on tap for 2010. In May the WCDC will join forces with the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club to host a

downtown car show and BBQ cook-off. Preliminary plans are also in the works for a cycling event in September of 2010.

The WCDC is already working with the CVB Promotions Committee to plan some county wide events for the 2010 holiday season. We’ve got some great ideas, and we are starting early so that we can bring everything to fruition.

Volunteers are needed to assist with downtown activities and events. The WCDC is a part-time, one person office, and more help is needed to be successful in planning and executing downtown events



Downtown Snow Removal

January 2010 has started out to be quite a challenge in terms of downtown snow removal. It is important to keep the downtown sidewalks as safe as possible for customers, employees and residents..

The WCDC has fielded several complaints about problem areas where downtown sidewalks have not been cleaned, and there have also been reports of

people falling on the slippery sidewalks.

The City’s Municipal Code (Article I, Section 70-1) does require building occupants/owners to clear their sidewalks by 9:00 a.m. each day, and to keep them cleared throughout the day.

The City Ordinance Officer has been in touch with the WCDC office, and he will be contact-

ing building owners/occupants about snow removal. While the City is asking for voluntary compliance, there is the possibility of fines being assessed.

Please be a good Samaritan if you have a neighbor that needs help. The WCDC office also has contact info for some young men that do snow removal at very reasonable rates.

Let’s try to keep everyone safe!

January 2010

Included in this Issue:

2009/2010	1
Sidewalk Maintenance	1
Holiday Decorations	2
Around the Town	2
Warsaw Biblical Gardens	2

Special points of interest:

- New Events in 2010
- Downtown Snow Removal Challenges
- Decorating Contest Winners
- Around the Town Will Become a Regular Newsletter Feature
- Warsaw Biblical Gardens Becomes Part of Arts & Earth Trail

Downtown Holiday Decorations

Downtown building owners and occupants, community leader Sylvia Aguirre and Peggy Rees of the Salvation Army did a fantastic job of decorating downtown Warsaw for the holidays.

With the help of Vision It Now the WCDC was able to set up on-line voting in order to get the public involved in choosing the best window displays and decorated trees. Traditional paper ballots were also available.

The voting was really close, but after all of the votes were counted Meridian Title emerged as the winner of the People's

Choice award for "Best Window Display," and Just for Kids received the People's Choice award for "Best Decorated Tree." Becky Moyer and Stephanie Douwsma were responsible for Meridian Title's window décor and Julie Hall and Sarah Espinosa decorated the tree for Just for Kids.

Other winners included the Dennie House Christmas tree decorated by Rita Laird, and Brown Bag Deli's tree that was decorated by Wendy Fribley Vision It Now's window display designed by Mallorie Moore,

and the Just For Kids window display developed by Julie Hall and Sarah Espinosa were also recognized. Winners received certificates and advertising dollars to spend at the Warsaw Times Union.

All of the merchants did an outstanding job and it is regrettable that there could only be a few winners.

Kudos also to the City of Warsaw, Warsaw Street Department and Oakwood Cemetery employees for lighting the downtown trees and hanging wreaths and intersection decorations. Their efforts are appreciated.

Around the Town

B-Mac's owner Brian McClelland can frequently be seen delivering food to downtown Warsaw businesses. Thanks to Brian for providing such great customer service.

Brown Bag Deli is now featuring quarts of soup to go. If you don't feel like cooking, but want some great homemade soup, stop by and pick up a quart or two. The Brown Bag Deli also offers delivery service.

Did you resolve to get in shape during 2010? Giverny Fitness is offering a wide variety of classes and activities to help you accomplish that goal. Sign up today!

Downtown business owners Julie Hall and Jen Mink are planning to open a resale shop called "The Mix" at the Old Train

Depot in downtown Warsaw. They are buying clean, gently used, brand name clothing (women's and children's.) Clothing may be taken to Ruby or Just for Kids.

Thanks to Rex's Rendezvous employee Ron Harris for taking the initiative to shovel several downtown sidewalks on a recent snowy morning. What a nice gesture!

TOWERbank recently received an Architectural Design Award for its facility at 120 N. Buffalo Street. Congratulations to John Warren and crew.

DJ Construction from Goshen will soon be setting up a satellite office at 119 E. Center Street in the suite previously occupied by the Healthcare Foundation of Kosciusko County.

The former Bishop's Books location may soon have a new tenant. Details have not been released, but it does not appear that it will re-open as a book store.

A new Family Video store opened on the corner of Buffalo Street and Winona Avenue just before Christmas. Be sure to stop in and welcome them to Warsaw.

"Around the Town" will become a regular feature of the WCDC Newsletters. Please call (267-6419) or e-mail the WCDC (wcdc@kconline) if there is something that you would like to have mentioned.

Warsaw Biblical Gardens

The WCDC has served as the administrative arm of the Warsaw Biblical Gardens since 1986. While locals may take the Gardens for granted, they consistently draw out of county and out of state visitors.

In an effort to better accommodate tour groups as well as individual visitors to the Gardens, the WCDC and WBG Boards have enlisted the assistance of a Kosciusko

Leadership Academy group to explore different types of technology that might enhance tours of the Gardens.

This year the Gardens will be featured as a part of a multi-county Arts and Earth Trail in Northern Indiana. It is expected that the listing in the Arts & Earth Trail Guidebook will bring even more visitors to the Gardens. Hopefully some of those visitors will

also stop to enjoy downtown Warsaw.

Local Attorney Paul Refior serves as the current chairman of the Warsaw Biblical Gardens Board. Persons interested in serving on the WBG Board or in volunteering at the Gardens during the 2010 season should contact the WCDC Office at 267-6419.