

The Light From the Window

**Warsaw Community
Development Corporation**
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WCDC Membership

March 2010

Many thanks to the faithful WCDC members that have already paid their 2010 dues. Your support is appreciated.

WCDC operates on a very restricted budget and member dues are crucial to sustaining the organization.

If you are not currently a WCDC member, or have let you membership lapse, I would like to encourage you to consider some of the following reasons to join.

First and foremost the WCDC serves as an ambassador for downtown Warsaw. The WCDC responds to numerous calls from people that are seeking information about downtown eateries, retail shops and service businesses.

WCDC has participated in the Chamber's Taste & Trade Expo the past two years to create public awareness of downtown Warsaw and all that it offers.

In 2009 the WCDC sponsored several radio and newspaper advertisements encouraging people to shop locally in downtown Warsaw. WCDC has also been a big cheerleader for the 3/50 project.

The WCDC partners with several community groups on activities in order to send the message that downtown Warsaw is engaged and connected to the community

Examples of WCDC's community activities include serving as a conduit for the annual Warsaw/Winona Lake Fireworks, working with the 9-11 Memorial Committee, and serving on the steering committee for the Northern Indiana Lakes Festival.

The WCDC recently became a member of the CVB Promotions Committee and is working with Chamber and retail groups throughout Kosciusko County

to develop county-wide retail promotions.

The WCDC also serves as a liaison between the City of Warsaw and downtown businesses. Streetscape, snow removal and parking issues are only a few of the matters that the WCDC tackles.

WCDC held its first "Downtown Open House" in 2009 to showcase properties available for sale or lease. More open house activities are planned for 2010.

Last, but not least, WCDC members are eligible to receive façade grant funding and revolving loan monies. Over the past seven years more than \$165,000 in grant funding has been awarded to 58 businesses or building owners.

Please call 267-6419 for WCDC membership info.

Cindy Dobbins

SPECIAL NOTE

*The WCDC is now accepting **Matching Façade Grant** applications for the first grant cycle of 2010. Applications are due by **March 31st** for early Spring and Summer projects.*

Applicants must be WCDC members, and properties must be located in the C-4 Historic Courthouse District.

Applications are available at www.warsawcdc.org or at the WCDC office. A \$25 application fee is required.



Spring Car Show & BBQ Competition

The WCDC will team up with the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club on Saturday, May 22nd to host a downtown car show and BBQ cook-off.

The Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club is putting a lot of time and effort into planning the activities, and the intent is to have the car show and BBQ competition develop into an annual event.

Some of the activities currently being planned include musical entertainment, a corn hole tournament, and lots of games and activities for both children and adults.

WCDC Board member Jean Ann Dennie, or a committee member, will be contacting downtown merchants about participating in a retail promotion in conjunction with this event on the 22nd.

The WCDC would like to host a strawberry shortcake booth on the 22nd in an effort to raise funds for future downtown activities. A volunteer is needed to spearhead this event. Please call 267-6419 or email wcdc@kconline.com if interested.

Merchant input and ideas are welcome. We want to make this a great event that can be built on in the future.

Downtown Warsaw Welcomes the Saint Regis Club

The former Bishop's Books location at 114 S. Buffalo Street has a new occupant! The building is now home to the Saint Regis Club, a new private social venue in downtown Warsaw.

The Saint Regis Club offers members a place to gather socially, as well as a place

to conduct business. The club will also feature educational and cultural programs for the benefit of its membership.

The interior of the 6,000 square foot facility has been renovated, and it is now complete with a main lobby, private lounges, a business center, a lecture hall, cigar lounge

and fitness center.

Information on membership and/or facility rental is available on the Saint Regis Club's website at www.saintregisclub.com. Additional information may also be obtained by e-mailing inquiry@saintregisclub.com.



Spring is Just Around the Corner!



The first few weeks of March have certainly incited a case of "Spring Fever." While it's doubtful that we've seen the end of winter weather, it sure is nice to have some sun and warmer temperatures.

With the advent of warmer weather the WCDC will try to utilize community service workers to assist with some downtown clean-up. Concerns about specific areas should be reported to the WCDC office so

that arrangements can be made to address those issues.

Downtown merchants and building owners are encouraged to survey the exterior of their properties, and assess any minor repairs or clean-up that might be needed. It's also a good time to remove any inappropriate seasonal decorations.

WCDC maintains a list of companies that are available to wash downtown windows.

Contact the WCDC office at 267-6419 for further information.

The Warsaw Parks & Recreation Department has already begun the task of cleaning the streetscape planters in an effort to prepare the flower beds for Spring planting.

This year the predominant color scheme of the annuals will be purple. The vivid purple should be a colorful addition to the downtown landscape.

Around Our Town

Downtown business owners Julie Hall and Jen Mink have opened their third business in downtown Warsaw. Their newest venture is a resale shop for women and children called "The Mix."

The Mix is located at the Old Railroad Depot on W. Jefferson Street. Business hours are 10—5 Wednesday thru Friday, and 10-4 on Saturdays.

Buffalo Street Emporium has opened at 116 S. Buffalo Street. It is a downtown variety store that features office supplies, scrapbook essentials, paper goods and nostalgic candies.

BSE has basic office supplies in stock and will special order items to accommodate customer requests. Most items can be purchased in small quantities so that customers do not have to buy more than they need.

The Next Chapter Bookstore will open at 116 S. Buffalo Street the week of March 15th. The bookstore will be located in the rear portion of the building that houses Buffalo Street Emporium. More details about the business will be available in the next newsletter.

B-Mac's has been opening on Friday evenings for AYCE fish & tenderloin dinners.

Good news! Kelainey's plans to open by the end of March, and possibly sooner.

Keith Reinholt of Reinholt's Furniture has offered to help spearhead a "First Friday" type of event in June of 2010. Preliminary plans include music and concessions on Main Street in front of Reinholt's.

It would be nice to plan several such events in different

areas of the downtown. Volunteers are needed to step forward and help plan other monthly activities.

Lake City Bank will host a Chamber Business After Hours on Thursday, March 25th from 4:30—6:00 p.m. at its 114 E. Market St. location. This will be a great opportunity to meet the new Chamber of Commerce President, Mark Dobson.

The BAH will also feature information about the Kosciusko County Business Leadership Network. KBLN is a business to business network that promotes and enhances employment opportunities for job candidates with disabilities.

"Around Our Town: is a regular feature of the WCDC Newsletter. Please call the WCDC at 267-6419 or e-mail wcdc@kconline.com if there is something you would like to have mentioned.