

The Downtowner

A Newsletter of the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership

Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 1st

- * Christmas Tree lighting Shopping Promotion, 3-5pm

Friday, December 7th

- * Annual Meeting, Clover Island Inn 8am

Tuesday, December 11th

- * Committee Workshop, TEC
- * Organization Comm. 7:30 - 9:30am
- * Econ. Restructuring Comm. 12 noon - 2pm
- * Promotion Committee, 3 - 5pm
- * Design Committee 5:30 - 7:30

Friday, December 21st

- * Board of Directors Meeting, TEC 7:30am

Saturday, December 22nd

- * Winter Begins

Tuesday, December 25th

- * Christmas

Sunday, December 31st

- * New Year's Eve

Board of Directors:

Gary Hall <i>President</i> Hall Engineering	Mark Blotz <i>Vice President</i> Clover Island Inn
Paul Scharold <i>Treasurer</i> Scharold Enterprises, Inc	Merrienne Door <i>Secretary</i> JD's Time Center
Jo Harrington <i>Past President</i> Harrington Home Care	Mayor Jim Beaver <i>City of Kennewick</i> Beaver Furniture Sales
Gary Earp Windermere Real Estate	Kathy Ruggles Washington Trust Bank
Kathy Kilgore Second Harvest Tri-Cities	Harvey Faurholt Attorney at Law

The Mission of the Historic Downtown Kennewick partnership is to enhance the prosperity of the downtown and preserve its History.

Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership Annual Meeting

The Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership will be holding its Annual Meeting on December 7th with the announcement of the newly elected Board Members for the 2008 year. The Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership hopes everyone will come out and welcome the newly elected board members.

In Addition, the Partnership's Executive Director Timothy Dalton will present a year end review highlighting the achievements of this past year and speak of exciting events planned for the Downtown area in 2008. If you are interested in how your membership dues are spent this is the meeting to attend.

This meeting will be sponsored by Washington Trust Bank.

Come out and join your friends and neighbors for some Christmas Spirit
Friday, December 7, 2007
8:00 a.m.
Clover Island Inn

Downtown Decorations

The Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership would like to thanks the following people who braved the weather and came out Saturday, November 17th to assist with installing lights of the trees downtown: Gary Hall, Jerry Thornton, Pete Rasmussen, Mark Blotz, Vince Rundhaug, Kevin Ferguson, Jim & Merrienne Door, Paul Scharold and his son Karis, Paul & Kathy Ruggles.

The Partnership would like to thank Barry Blondheim for the donation of the Christmas tree for Centennial Flag Plaza. If you would like to put any ornaments please feel free. In addition, the Partnership would like to encourage the property owners in the downtown to light the skyline of their buildings with LED Christmas lights. Washington Hardware has a variety of lights for your decorating pleasure.

There are members of the Partnership that have been trying for years to come up with banners for the downtown area. With the assistance of the Main Street Tax Credit contributions which we have received, the Partnership recently purchased 50 seasonal banners for the historic light poles in the downtown. The Partnership ultimate goals would be to create four set of banners for the different seasons for all the historic light poles in the downtown.



From the Director...

For the past couple of months, the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership has been planning a vision session for the downtown area. In October, downtown business owners, property owners, residents, community members, and city staff with the assistance of Sheri Stuart, of the State Main Street program created a vision with goals and objectives to achieve this vision. At the Board meeting in October, the Board of Directors of the HDKP adopted the following Vision:



Vision

In the future, downtown Kennewick will be lively, fun, and inviting—a place to bring “out of town people” for unique specialty shops, food, wine, and entertainment. It will be the center of the community.

Building on downtown’s reputation as one of the few “old” areas in the Tri-Cities, buildings will be properly restored preserving their historic relevance while achieving useful functionality. Public art will add to the comfortable pedestrian friendly environment. The district will be clean, green, and safe. An emphasis will be placed on improving linkages from downtown to Clover Island and riverfront development to take advantage of the proximity to the river.

Local businesses will succeed and prosper providing a vital and stable economy. This will be achieved by encouraging the right mix of businesses and supporting the continued development of the art community. The district will remain alive after 5 p.m. with a variety of cultural and entertainment opportunities. The mix of historic architecture, art, culture and linkage to the river will enhance tourism development.

Promotional and marketing efforts will encourage residents and visitors to explore downtown’s “funk,” art, and culture—a one-of-a-kind location where you can experience the best this region has to offer. New events will support the growing cultural offerings including the arts, music, and eclectic food establishments.

The city, port, individuals, business and property owners, and volunteers will work with the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership to achieve the shared vision for downtown: a place people near and far have heard about and want to visit for shopping, having fun, and working.

Business Spotlight

Grandstand Auto Sales
582-9872

Grandstand Auto Sales recently bought a second location downtown at the corner of Washington and 1st Ave. The owner Andy Bjazevich is happy to be in the downtown Kennewick area and has plans for his son to be the manager of the downtown location. Grandstand Auto Sales features a variety of well maintained used cars which can also be seen at their website www.buyused.com.



2008 Committee Work Plans

Sheri Stuart of the State Main Street Program will be coming to Kennewick, December 11th, to assist the four committees to create work plans for 2008. If these goals and objectives are to be achieved we need everyone's help. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in the downtown and see that these plans encompass all of the downtown with ties to the river as well as the Civic Center. The following are the Goals and Objectives that were outlined during the Vision Process in October:

Goals and Objectives:

Organization Committee Goal:

“Develop a strong leadership team that encourages stakeholder involvement and attracts the financial resources needed to support on-going revitalization efforts.”

Objectives:

- Increase stakeholder involvement.
- Nurture on-going partnership with the city.
- Develop a plan that identifies and accesses resources.
- Increase public awareness and community outreach.
- Support continued development of a strong leadership team.

Design Committee Goal:

“Create an inviting downtown by preserving historic buildings, encouraging more public art, and enhancing the pedestrian friendly environment.”

Objectives:

- Work with the city to develop historic downtown friendly zoning ordinances.
- Encourage proper restoration of buildings to preserve historic relevance while achieving useful functionality.
- Continue to improve the pedestrian friendly environment by incorporating art, landscaping, and other streetscape improvements.
- Give input on opportunities to improve linkages to Clover Island and riverfront development to take advantage of the proximity to the river.
- Provide a safe and clean downtown by enhancing maintenance efforts.

Promotion Committee Goal:

“Promote downtown as a one-of-a-kind location where you can experience the best the region has to offer.”

Objectives:

- Recruit new blood and ideas.
- Develop promotional activities to generate revenue for local businesses.
- Create an image/brand for downtown.
- Continue to grow existing events.
- Create new events based on history, art, music, and eclectic food.
- Identify opportunities to attract the next generation of shoppers.

Economic Restructuring Committee Goal:

“Create a vital and stable economy by enhancing the downtown business environment.”

Objectives:

- Support existing business and property owners and increase their involvement.
- Improve the mix of businesses downtown by increasing the variety of food, retail, and entertainment establishments.
- Continue current financial incentive programs and identify new opportunities for business start-up funds, building improvements, etc.
- Encourage the development of the art community to add vitality to the district.
- Continue to monitor downtown's economic progress.

On the front of the newsletter is a schedule of the dates and times that the committees meet every month. The important thing to remember is that these committee meetings are open to everyone; you do not need to be a member to attend, just have an interest in seeing the downtown move forward. For more information, call the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership at 582-7221



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Final Opportunity for Businesses to Contribute in 2007

As we enter the December, now is the final opportunity for businesses to contribute to the downtown revitalization process in 2007 through the B&O Tax Credit legislation. In 2005, the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership worked with other Downtown revitalization programs across the state, to introduce legislation creating a B&O Tax credit for individual businesses investing in local Downtown revitalization programs like the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership. The Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership has received a number of contributions from a variety of businesses like HPM Corporation, Bank of the West, and Dr. Matt Smith.

Through this Legislation, businesses receive a credit of 75% of the value of the contribution made to an eligible downtown or neighborhood commercial district revitalization organizations. Contributions made to the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership may also qualify as tax deduction on a business's federal tax return under our 501 (c) (3) status. If a business contributes in December, they can start claiming the credit in January on their 4th quarter taxes.

Through October, the Department of Revenue had received about \$800,000 out of the \$1.5 million available in pledged contributions to organizations such as the HDKP statewide. These contributions range from as little as \$500 to as large as \$100,000. The Partnership is currently working with a number of local businesses as the end of the year approaches to take advantage of this program and make 2008 a successful year for the Downtown Kennewick. If you are interested in finding out more information on this program, please contact Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership office at 582-7221.