



Where Muskegon Comes Alive!

Muskegon Main Street News

News and events from the Muskegon Main Street Program

<http://downtownmuskegon.org>

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Fall 2005

Downtown Events

- Sept 27 - YUP Muskegon Downtown Update at City Cafe
- Sept 29 - Main Street Annual Meeting at the LST
- Sept 30, Oct 1 - WSSO "Blast Off" concert.
- Oct 1 - Lumberman's Ball at Muskegon County Museum
- Oct 2 - Crop Walk
- Oct 5 - Comedy Inn at the Holiday Inn
- Oct 17 - Hector Olivera at Muskegon Community Concerts
- Nov 18-19 WSSO presents "Rapture"
- Nov 25 - Nutcracker at the Frauenthal
- Dec 22-23 - Muskegon Main Street Holiday Film Festival

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Two New Businesses on Main Street

Over the course of the summer retail action picked up on Third Street in downtown Muskegon. Vally Oriental Market and Positiv-i-Teas moved into the neighborhood business district located on Third St. between Houston and Monroe. Both were attracted by the opportunity to run small businesses in a location that has real potential for growth. "Downtown is ready to go!" exclaimed Kim Lemke, owner of Positiv-i-Teas when asked why she had chosen Third Street as the place to locate her business.

Lemke is a veteran downtown Muskegon retailer, most recently having run the Carmen's Mercantile. Her shop's name reflects the positive attitude she embodies about downtown Muskegon. She plans to sell exotic teas and coffees, various vintage memorabilia, and custom made gift boxes. Already Kim and Delores have improved the space at 1137 Third by painting the interior white to give it an open feeling.

Nga Nguyen moved her shop from Apple Avenue to downtown Muskegon, While more cars passed by the Apple St. location she saw very little pedestrian traffic and drop-in customers. Nguyen sells a wide variety of Asian gifts and crafts, as well as large selection of Asian food items.



Ground Breaking Ceremony Attracts a Crowd

The anticipation that had been building for years, concerning Western Avenue redevelopment was let out of the bottle August 30. Over 200 people attended the groundbreaking for Phase 1 of the reconstruction of the city grid of streets planned to return the site to its historic layout.

"We are building a beautiful and shining city on the water," exclaimed Chris McGuigan, President of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. She joined with political leaders from all levels of government including Pete Hoekstra, US House of Representatives member, in expressing optimism for the future of downtown Muskegon. City of Muskegon Mayor Steve Warmington summed up the sentiment of the day by stating "there is a sense that something is happening."

Milbocker and Sons were awarded the \$1.246 million project in August and are expected to start construction late in September and finish by June 2006. A webcam view of the progress can be found at downtownmuskegon.org.



Heritage Garden Beautifies Downtown Muskegon

Have you noticed the beautiful new addition to the downtown Muskegon garden scene that sprang up over the summer? If not, lace up your walking shoes and take a walk down to West Western and see the new Heritage Garden for yourself. The garden was the brainchild of Pam Babbitt, wife of the late Ed Babbitt. When he passed away she wanted a way to remember him and decided to use this space in downtown Muskegon to do so. When her intentions were publicized, many in the Muskegon community contacted Babbitt and expressed interest in helping furnish the garden with furniture marked as memorials to family members.

The result was a professionally laid out garden complete with decorative cement paths, a central gazebo, a water fountain, benches to sit on, all designed by MSU Extension Master Gardener Debbie Jensen.



Car Show Lines West Western

July 9 dawned a perfect, clear day and the Main Street Car Show took full advantage packing over 150 classic cars onto Western Avenue in downtown Muskegon. The streets were crowded for the duration of the show with curious parade goers and Summer Celebration patrons enjoying a stroll through a field of beautifully restored cars. The day culminated with award announcements of winners in 20 classes. Morris Younts took best in show with his entry of an exquisite 1957 Chevy pickup. Thanks to all our sponsors, entrants, and patrons for a great day benefiting the Rainy Day Program and Muskegon Main Street.



3rd Annual Glamazon-a-Thon a success

Glamazon Artistic Hair Culture would like to thank all of the participants and sponsors who helped make their 3rd annual Glamazon-a-thon, a fund raiser for Every Woman's Place, a huge success. Glamazon has been hosting the event since their 1st year of business in downtown Muskegon. This year's goal of \$3000 was reached in part through sponsorship from Weber Lumber and by a raffle made possible with gifts from the Port City Princess, the Frauenthal, and Pints and Quarts, among others. Glamazon staff volunteered their time and completed 100 services at \$15.00 a service to achieve the fundraising goal. Call 725-0700 for more information or to make an appointment.



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Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor
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