



Muskegon Main Street News

News and events from the Muskegon Main Street Program

<http://downtownmuskegon.org>

Where Muskegon Comes Alive!

Volume 5, Issue 4

Fall 2006

Downtown Events

- Oct 6/7 - Damfinos' Convention - Frauenthal
- Oct 6 - Lumber Baron's Ball - Muskegon County Museum
- Oct 13 - Muskegon Fury Season Opener - L.C. Arena
- Oct 13/14 - Thriller Chiller Festival - Frauenthal
- Oct 20/21 - Depot to Depot Fall Color Tour
- Nov 16 - Seussical - Muskegon Civic Theatre
- Nov 24 - Russian Ballet's Nutcracker - Frauenthal
- Nov 24-Dec 3 - Festival of Trees at MMA
- Nov 25 - Village Food & Arts Market - Muskegon Womens Club
- Nov 30-Dec 2 - Singing Christmas Tree - Frauenthal
- Dec 23/23 - Main Street Movie Festival - Frauenthal

Complete event listings at downtownmuskegon.org

Muskegon Main Street Advisory Board

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Muskegon Main Street Awarded Cool Cities Grant

After being part of two previous Cool Cities applications, Muskegon Main Street was selected as a 2006 Cool Cities grant recipient for a project called "Renaissance at Third & Western". In addition to priority access to state resources for the target area, Muskegon will receive \$100,000 in grant money that will go towards three initiatives helping to transform the intersection at Third and Western to a real destination..

Half of the money will be used by Western Avenue Properties for façade improvements to the Daniel's building, Century Club, and Muskegon Savings bank. An additional \$40,000 will go to the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, who is partnering with the Muskegon Museum of Art, to place a piece of public art at the intersection. And Muskegon Main Street will use \$10,000 to help establish four wireless Internet zones at key pedestrian gathering places downtown Muskegon. The Cool Cities catalyst grant program aims to come along side investment already taking place and take the project over the top. It would not be an overstatement to say that given the current and proposed developments at the corner of Western at Third, there will be a total transformation within the next year!



Third Street Resurgence Continues

Developments over the summer demonstrated that the resurgence started last year with the opening of two new businesses on Third St. between Houston and Merrill show no sign of slowing down. Spurred by the opening of Positiv-i-Teas and Vally Oriental Market, three properties were purchased over the last year and are in various states of redevelopment.

Scott Livingston purchased 1100 Third, and after receiving a commitment for a façade grant from Muskegon Main Street, began work on refurbishing the former realtor offices into two updated office suites with a new parking pad in the previously vacant lot directly next to the building. At 1133 Third, Dennis Thornley, Jeremy Pacquin and Jamie Lobello received an Obsolete Property Certificate allowing them to



begin restoring the former Big Bob's restaurant space into a bakery and organic restaurant. The group has already upgraded the second floor apartments above commercial space. Finally, 1141 Third was recently purchased by Luis Aguilar, who is planning to open a Mexican market in the near future.

Downtown Signage Unveiled

As part of a wider Muskegon County campaign to install signs that convey a sense of place to residents and visitors alike, Muskegon Main Street played a role in the recent installation of 1 gateway, and 9 directional signs, throughout the city of Muskegon. The high quality, full color signs allow the downtown, Lakeside, and Beach neighborhoods of Muskegon to create unique identities while pointing visitors directly to places of interest.



The initiative was the result of a collaborative effort involving the Main Street Design Committee, the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce Community Promotions committee, and the city of Muskegon, in addition to a variety of sponsors who are mentioned on the signs themselves. This program has been well received and already plans are underway for a second round of signs being sponsored by Lasalle Bank.

Walkability Expert Comes to Muskegon

Muskegon has already begun taking advantage of services provided through the State of Michigan as a result of receiving a Cool Cities Catalyst grant. The first service received was a visit from Dan Burden, a nationally recognized walkability expert. Burden led a group of 30 downtown stakeholders on a walk through downtown Muskegon demonstrating strategies that could be implemented in Muskegon to improve the pedestrian experience. The walk was followed by a presentation demonstrating how walkability strategies, such as roundabouts etc, have been used to good effect around the country



Maps Added to Downtown Muskegon Website

New advances in online mapping have led visitors and residents to rely greatly on services that give precise driving directions, and with Google Maps, also allow users to understand the lay of the land through satellite photography. Google Maps has taken this one step further for communities by allowing them to interface their websites with the underlying technology of Google Maps enabling web site administrators to create customized maps that highlight attractions and other points of interest. Muskegon Main Street has implemented this its website and now it is possible people to take an interactive tour of downtown Muskegon from anywhere in the world!



Muskegon Main Street Business Members

- Muskegon Summer Celebration*
- Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor*
- Details & Design by Mary Kaye*
- Muskegon County Museum*
- Hackley Public Library*
- Catholic Social Services*
- The Frauenthal Center*
- Radiology Muskegon*
- Drs. Gundersen & Zuker*
- Neighborhood Investment Corporation*
- Coastline Deli*
- Muskegon Museum of Art*
- St. Pauls Episcopal Church*
- Consumers Energy*
- Strategic Enterprises*
- Muskegon Community Health Project and Lakeshore Lung*
- United Way of Muskegon County*
- Muskegon Heritage Association*
- Waterstone Insurance Agency*
- Michigan Mayhem*
- Watermark Center*
- Representative David Farhat*
- Muskegon Fury Hockey*
- Racquets Downtown Grill*
- Westshore Occupational Health Center*
- Hackley-Holt House Bed and Breakfast*
- Missing Piece Design Clay Studio*
- Muralistik Custom Wall Murals*
- Glamazon Artistic Hair Culture*

If your business or organization would like to become a Main Street member contact us. Individual memberships are also available.

Muskegon Main Street Supporters

- Muskegon Area First Community Foundation for Muskegon County*
- Muskegon Construction Company*
- Fifth Third Bankcorp*
- City of Muskegon*
- Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce*
- MSHDA*

