



# Muskegon Main Street News

News and events from the Muskegon Main Street Program

<http://downtownmuskegon.org>

Where Muskegon Comes Alive!

## Downtown Events

- Mar 25 - Cirque Dreams at the Frauenthal
- Mar 31/Apr 1 - WSSO concert
- Apr 8 - Student Art Exhibit at MMA
- Apr 14 - Alley Door Club at the Frauenthal
- Apr 20 - Philips, Craig & Dean at the Frauenthal
- May 5/6 - Latin Flavor festival at Hackley Park
- May 16 - Community Concerts presents Quartetto Gelato
- May 19 - Annual Spring Cleanup at Hackley Park
- May 19 - Tech Fest at Edison Landing
- June 15-17 - Miss Michigan Pageant

Complete event listings at [downtownmuskegon.org](http://downtownmuskegon.org)

## Muskegon Main Street Advisory Board

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## ArtWorks and Level 6 bring cool to Western Avenue

Winter 06 finally cooled down in February, but things heated up downtown with the opening of Art Works Muskegon and Level 6. **The Art Works** is a 26 unit arts incubator featuring the creation, exhibition, and performance of the arts. The units are geared for artists with creative space and natural light abounding. In addition there is community work space, as well as studio/gallery for artists to display their work. The Art Works was developed by HDC Construction of Novi, Michigan. At the time of writing 5 units had been leased. If you know of an artist looking for a great place to live and work check out the Art Works or call Josh at (231) 728-8505.



Just down Western Ave. from the Art Works, **Level 6** (722-8100) also opened in February. A venture of Joe Lalonde, Level 6 is a purveyor of apparel and gear appealing to youth culture. With a special focus on skateboard equipment, Level 6 hopes to tap into a void in the Muskegon market for stores that sell high end skating shoes and apparel. Using a boutique model, Level 6 fills just over 500 sq ft of space that was recently made available at 559 W. Western by the Muskegon Heritage Association. "We are committed to the rebirth of a commercial Western Avenue" said MHA representative Terry McAllister.

## Biz Resource Center set to open at Hackley Library

Entrepreneurs with a business idea often wonder where they can turn to find reputable resources that will aid them as they develop their business ideas or concepts. With the planned arrival of a Biz Resource Center (BRC) at Hackley Public Library, a one stop shop will be soon be available. A BRC is a dedicated corner of a public building that contains print and electronic resources that small business owners can use to plan for the successful launch of a small business. In Muskegon the BRC is a joint venture of the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, Michigan Main Street, the Hackley Public Library and Muskegon Main Street. **The public is welcome to the grand opening of the BRC set for May 3 at 8:30 a.m.** After this date visitors to the library will be able to use a wide variety of startup manuals created by Entrepreneur magazine, including relevant information for a wide variety of commercial enterprises that would be appropriate in downtown commercial districts. In addition laptops loaded with business planning software will be available to BRC patrons. So if you have ever thought about starting a business, now is the time to get on the road to success.



## Façade program continues to generate investment

Over the winter work spurred by participation in the Main Street Façade Improvement program, funded through the Community Foundation MSHDA fund, continued to take place. Radiology Muskegon took advantage of the program to receive over \$1200 in matching grant funds which allowed for the improvement of their side façade with the installation of metal coping along the top of a side wall which is shared with the former Muskegon Hotel building.



In addition the owners of the Topsy Toad received word that the improvements to the façade of 609 W. Western would be eligible for a façade grant. The owners of the tavern which is scheduled to open prior to Memorial Day plan to overhaul the façade of the building by installing new windows, doors, trim, and a new sign.



## New community officer hits the streets

Late in 2005 Scott Vanderwier was appointed to be the new community officer for the Nelson and Downtown neighborhoods by the City of Muskegon Police department. He has not stopped running since. A seven year veteran of the police force and a Muskegon native, Scott has made an immediate impact on the downtown area by becoming extremely involved with downtown residents and business owners. At his suggestion a joint neighborhood/business association meeting was held in January where Officer Vanderwier described initiatives he is spearheading to keep downtown Muskegon safe and inviting for residents, business owners, and customers. Officer Vanderwier is always available to deal with your concerns by email at [scott.vanderwier@postman.org](mailto:scott.vanderwier@postman.org) or by phone at (231) 724-6735.

## Plans for streetscape of Western Avenue firm up

A downtown streetscape has long been in the works with news of a MDOT enhancement grant being announced last year, but steps towards the project being a reality took place in February. In February the City of Muskegon City Commission approved an engineering contract with URS of Grand Rapids to draw up the plans for street reconstruction and streetscape. While final plans will be determined based on what can be purchased with the monies available, it is expected that the new streetscape will include "bumpouts" which protrude into the street at several intersections, brick-look crosswalks, decorative street lighting, benches, planters, bicycle racks and trash receptacles. This project will tie into a streetscape project for Fifth St that will feature a walking trail which will link downtown attractions. Work is expected to be after Labor Day.



## 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  
Muralistic 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

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Michigan Economic Development  
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