



Where Muskegon Comes Alive!

# Muskegon Main Street News

News and events from Muskegon Main Street

<http://downtownmuskegon.org>

## Downtown Events

- Jan 19 - Muskegon Fury Hockey - LC Walker Arena
- Jan 26 - Alley Door Club Frauenthal - Hilt Building
- Feb 1 - Post Card Salon Sale and Reception – MMA
- Feb 2/3 - Muskegon Film Festival - Frauenthal
- Feb 9 - Winter Dreams - WSSO
- Feb 11 - Aviation Art - Muskegon Museum of Art
- Feb 13 - Date Night - Muskegon County Museum
- Feb 26 - The Miracle Worker - Civic Theatre
- Feb 27 - Time for Three - Frauenthal
- Mar 16/17 Scottish Fantasy - WSSO
- Mar 29 - God is Crazy About You Tour - Frauenthal

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

## Muskegon Main Street Board

- Cathy Brubaker-Clarke
- Tim Burgess
- Jim Edmonson
- Chris McGuigan
- Gene Fethke
- Maris Meyers
- Cindy Morat-Larsen
- Roger Morgenstern
- Clara Shepherd
- Larry Spataro
- Rich Taylor
- Steve Vaughan, chair
- Steve Wisneski

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## Heart of Main Street Turning Heads

Literally. December saw the reopening of the intersection at Third and Western, but with a twist. Between September and December the intersection was rebuilt to include a European style round-a-bout. This traffic management tool is pedestrian friendly, environmentally friendly, and generally more attractive than traditional intersections.

Drivers (such as the one pictured at right) seem to be getting used to the new approach. As the intersection was completed just before winter set in, the first look at the landscaping that will set the intersection apart will come into bloom next spring.

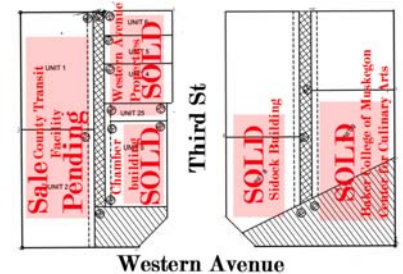
In addition the Community Foundation for Muskegon County is heading an effort to install a signature piece of art in the middle of the round-a-bout sometime in 2007. This effort is receiving technical support from the Downtown Arts Committee, an ad-hoc committee of the Community Foundation, made up of members knowledgeable in the field of public art. To this point money has been committed to the project by the Alcoa-Howmet Foundation and State of Michigan through a Cool Cities catalyst grant. A plan designating other downtown locations for public art has also been completed.



## Heart of Third Street Shaping Up

Now that the streets and round-a-bout have been completed at the intersection of Third and Western (see above) interest in private development on the property surrounding the round-a-bout has picked up considerably. Indeed with the announcement that Baker College has purchased the parcel kiddy-corner to Hackly Park at Third and Clay, all the parcels fronting Third Street on the former mall site are spoken for. Moving west of Clay current plans call for the Culinary Art School, an office/retail building developed by the Sidock Group, an office retail building developed by Capstone Development which will house the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce, and a transit facility owned by the County of Muskegon.

Currently all four projects are in the process of finalizing designs, and completing other pre-development activities. When the weather breaks, the two office/retail buildings should get underway. As renovations have already on the three buildings owed by Western Avenue Properties, unique retail shops, including Hegg's Furniture, should be in operation by the end of 2007.



## Movie Festival Adds to Downtown Holiday Spirit

In its fourth year, the Main Street Holiday Movie Festival continued to bring Holiday cheer downtown Muskegon during the recent Christmas season. Held at the Frauenthal Theater, the two showings of the Polar Express were again the highlights, with both showings accompanied by special guests delighting the children. On December 22nd it was a “real conductor” who punched each child’s ticket as they entered the theater. And on the 23rd it was none other than Santa Claus who was available for children to tell their last minute Christmas wishes to.



Again thanks to the sponsors of the Festival, without whom the festival would not be possible. Our title sponsor was Sappi Fine Paper, our media sponsor was Little Caesar’s, and our film sponsors were Consumers Energy, Access Health, the Topsy Toad, the Muskegon Chronicle, Strategic Insurance, and Carpenter Insurance. In addition, thanks to the staff of the Frauenthal Theater.

## Holiday Planters get Main Street businesses involved

In addition to holding the Holiday Movie Festival, Muskegon Main Street was active “sprucing” up downtown Muskegon by arranging for miniature Christmas trees to be installed in the planters lining Third St and Western Avenue. Once the trees were in place, the businesses and organizations next to the planter locations decorated the trees, each in a unique style. Tickets to the Holiday Movie Festival were made available to participants. As Western Avenue between 3rd St. and 8th St. has been under construction as part of a streetscape project, not all of the planters were able to be put to use, but next spring the construction should be complete and flowers will once again line the street.



## Keeping Main Street Beautiful

As part of its work plan for 2007, Muskegon Main Street plans to make a push to keep the Main Street district clean and attractive. The Main Street district is located on Western Avenue between Spring and 8th St, and along Third St from Shoreline to Merrill. Specifically the organization is hoping to see garbage receptacles installed in the Third Street commercial corridor between Houston and Merrill. This will complement with the receptacles that are scheduled to be installed along Western Avenue as part of the current streetscaping project between 3rd and 8th streets.

In addition Main Street is planning a Spring Clean-up to be held from 9-2 p.m. on May 18, which will be accompanied by an awareness campaign to keep Main Street clean by picking up litter and keeping weeds in check over the tourist intensive summer season.

## Main Street Business Members

*Annis Water Resources Institute  
Bosma Architects  
Catholic Social Services  
Clay Avenue Station  
Creative Systems Benefits  
Glamazon  
Hackley Library  
Jerviss-Fethke Insurance  
Lee Printing & Graphics  
Missing Piece Clay Designs  
Muskegon Construction Company  
Muskegon County Museum  
Muskegon Heritage Association  
Muskegon Museum of Art  
Muskegon Summer Celebration  
Neighborhood Investment Corporation  
Radiology Muskegon  
Railroad Historical Society  
True North Architecture, P.C.  
United Way of the Lakeshore  
US 31 BBQ  
West Michigan Dock & Market*

## Main Street Benefactors

*Muskegon Area First  
Community Foundation for  
Muskegon County  
Muskegon Construction Company  
City of Muskegon  
Muskegon Area Chamber  
of Commerce  
MSHDA  
Consumers Energy  
Huntington Bank  
Watermark Center & Lofts*

*Muskegon Main Street is a non-profit organization supported at various levels by the above businesses/organizations. To learn how you can support Main Street visit our website.*

