



# Downtown News

April 2011

Independence Main Street

## Main Street “Mardi Gras” a Huge Success

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual fund-raiser was held March 5, 2011 at the Civic Center and approximately \$10,000 was raised after expenses. The funds will be used to promote downtown as a destination for shopping, dining and entertainment and our events through an expanded use of the media—print, television and radio and to host the 2011 Kansas Downtown Symposium that will bring 250 visitors from across the state to Independence October 12-14, 2011.

Over 200 people attended the event which featured three auctions. Following the dinner, David Alexander took center stage for the live auction. The evening concluded with dancing with Tony Ysusi, “the Rockin’DJ” from Chanute.

The table decorations were provided by Mary Hugo [and her helpers Mary Sasse, Terry Hugo and Dennis Solar. And the room decorations were by Janet Demo, Jim Dittmer and Parade Specialties.

Mark your calendars now for the 2012 event, which has been set for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and rumor has it that there will be a St. Patrick’s Day theme.

Just a thought....

“Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning.”

Bill Gates



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the upcoming graduates of Independence High School. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

## Muffins with Main Street

The first quarterly early morning Promotions Committee meeting, “Muffins with Main Street” was held on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Independence Historical Museum.

In addition to those yummy muffins, coffee and hot tea the agenda included discussion about the recent Sales Tax Sale, the Inge Festival, All Wheels Nite, Farmers Market and the End of Summer Sale.

If you’ve never attended a “Muffins” get-to-gether, please mark your calendar. We’ll meet next on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM at the Museum. For more information, call Donna at 331-2300.

From the ER Committee:

The City Commission is evaluating the idea of hiring a retail business recruiter. They have met with him once and he will come to another commission meeting in April to sell the commissioners on the idea of hiring him. This company was instrumental in placing several of the stores in Owasso and presently works region wide. Members of the ER Committee have been and will be present for those meetings so we can report back to Main Street.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> the ksbdc presented a seminar on “Economic Gardening” in Parsons. This concept involves providing free market research to Kansas firms to help them develop new markets. There are certain criteria that must be met to take part, but if a company meets those criteria, the group can supply consulting, market research and lead development – all at no charge.

We still have a blue canvas awning from Bob Kurfiss’s building. It’s in pretty good shape, and is free! Call Darrell at 331-8903 for additional information.

**2011 Kansas Downtown Symposium**

The annual conference for the 25 communities in Kansas that are members of the Kansas Main Street family will be in Independence October 12-14, 2011.

The meetings will be held at the Civic Center, the attendees will be staying at the Appletree Inn and spending their free time in our downtown doing two of their favorite things-shopping and eating! Just like at home, we've got company coming and we need to all put our best foot forward!



Mark your calendars, the opening day for Farmers Market is set for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM-10:30 AM. The market is located at the corner of N. Penn & W. Myrtle and will be open until mid-October. Free hamburgers will be provided by Cross C Ranch on opening day. Their website can be found at: [www.indyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.indyfarmersmarket.com)



Main Street - Mardi Gras 2011

At the fund-raiser in March, Hoite Caston was honored with a plaque for serving on the Board of Directors from 1996-2010 and a caricature drawn by Steve McBride for his work decorating the downtown trees during the holiday season.



Congratulations to Carol Harris, owner of SCRUB WORKS, located at 218 N. Penn, who celebrated 5 years last month of being a part of downtown Independence.



**A Note from our President:**

I am excited to serve as the President of Main Street. I look forward to working with the Main Street board and Donna to increase consumer business, and strengthen retail and professional business. I feel we have a downtown where people can shop, dine, enjoy entertainment or just gather with friends and enjoy conversation.

Our Main Street fundraiser was a great success due to the generosity of the businesses and people of Independence. We are so lucky to live in a community that is willing to do whatever it takes to help make our community stronger. Feel free to contact me with any concerns that you have or ideas that you think will make our downtown even better than it is today.

Kyra

**SAVE SPACES FOR CUSTOMERS**

When anyone, anywhere talks about the difficulty of doing business downtown, what is the first limitation that immediately springs to mind? **PARKING:** Then why is it that on any given day, the vehicles of business owners and employees fill valuable parking spaces that should be open and available for customers?

We know. The spaces out front are convenient. **THAT'S WHY WE WANT THEM FOR OUR CUSTOMERS!!!!**

Maybe your business doesn't depend on parking. **BUT PERHAPS YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BUSINESS DOES.** More than ever, a downtown business district needs to understand. **WE ALL SINK OR SWIM TOGETHER.**

**2011 Board of Directors**

**OFFICERS**

**Kyra Mott, President**  
*First Federal Savings & Loan*  
**Judith Lowdon, Immediate Past President**  
*Coldwell Banker Pasternak-Johnson*  
**Denise Hines, Vice President**  
*Family Membership*  
**Lori Boyle, Secretary**  
*Dr. Sandra Easter*  
**Randy Hoffman, Treasurer**  
*Yerkes & Michels, CPA, LLC*

**DIRECTORS**

**Janet Demo**  
*Best Beverage Sales & Printing*  
**Darrell Gentry**  
*The Computer Generation & Radio Shack*  
**Jim Kelly**  
*Community National Bank*  
**Paul Marquez**  
*Jock's Nitch*  
**Wanda Mayo**  
*Messenger Furniture*  
**Jason Rutledge**  
*Edward Jones & Co.*  
**Becky Wuerdeman**  
*Family Membership*

**Lisa Wilson, Ex-Officio**  
*Independence Chamber of Commerce*  
**Brad Eilts, Ex-Officio**  
*Montgomery County Action Council*

**Donna Dittmer, Executive Director**

Check us out at:

[www.independencemainstreet.com](http://www.independencemainstreet.com)

**Independence Main Street**

**Our Mission**

*To work together with the historic downtown business district to obtain specific, measurable, attainable and timely goals and to promote upper story housing and office development. To maintain a successful and enjoyable retail, service, dining and entertainment experience for the community and for visitors.*

**Meet the 2011 Board of Directors**



Back Row L-R: Lori Boyle, Jason Rutledge, Judith Lowdon, Wanda Mayo, Janet Demo, Becky Wuerdeman. Front Row L-R: Darrell Gentry, Denise Hines, Kyra Mott, Donna Dittmer, Paul Marquez. Not pictured, Jim Kelly.

**BUSINESS UPDATES**

Welcome to Downtown:

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Di's Handbag's & More | 104 W. Main |
| Teresa's Cake Gallery | 219 N. Penn |
| Déjà vu Antique Mall  | 317 N. Penn |
| One Stop Pack-N-Shop  | 325 N. Penn |

Change of Business Name:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Elegance on Pennsylvania Avenue [formerly Let's Do Lunch & Shop]             | 221 N. Penn  |
| TLC Nursery & Outdoor Living [formerly Independence Nursery & Garden Center] | 1000 S. 10th |

Change of Address:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Johnson Chiropractic & Wellness Clinic | 311 E. Main |
|--|-------------|

Welcome Back to Downtown

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Grass Roots Design Group | 110 W. Main |
| Ane Mae's Coffee House   | 325 N. Penn |

Businesses that will be missed in downtown:

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Longhorn Realty              | 308 N. Penn |
| Bette & Phil's Hallmark Shop | 207 N. Penn |

If you would like to help support the Main Street program, please fill out and return to PO Box 611.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Investment Levels

- Retail/less than 25 employees \$ 100
- Retail/more than 25 employees \$ 250
- Restaurants/Hotels/Motels \$ 100
- Professional/Service/Medical \$ 150
- Financial/Media/Industry/Utility \$ 250
- Family [non-business owner] \$ 50

Please make checks payable to Independence Main Street.  
We are a 501(c) 6 organization.

*Independence Main Street has been designated as a Kansas Main Street Program by the Kansas Department of Commerce.*



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 4 Promotions Committee, 8 AM
- May 6 Chick-fil-A Leadercast, Memorial Hall 8 AM
- May 7 Farmers Market, 7:30 AM
- May 8 "Draw your Mom" winners announced
- May 16 Board of Directors, 12 Noon
- May 29 All Wheels Nite Downtown, 6-8 PM
- May 22-25 National Main Streets Conference, Des Moines, IA
- August 6 End of Summer Sale
- October 12-14 Kansas Downtown Symposium, Memorial Hall



PO Box 611  
Independence, KS 67301  
620-331-2300  
[indymnst@comgen.com](mailto:indymnst@comgen.com)  
[www.independencemainstreet.com](http://www.independencemainstreet.com)

Independence Main Street, Inc.  
PO Box 611  
Independence, KS 67301

**DOWNTOWN**

the  of Independence