



Downtown News

December 2011

Independence Main Street

HOLIDAY DOLLARS



Winners of the 2011 Holiday Dollars drawing on November 20, 2011 were left to right: Sharon Corn, \$500, Ginger Bellm, \$250; Jerry Musgrove, \$150; Jim Hardy, \$150.

Congratulations to the winners and a big THANK YOU to the merchants and businesses who contributed to make this possible. A complete list of the sponsors is included.

Earlier in the day the downtown merchants hosted an Open House at their businesses which was followed by the annual Main Street and Optimist Club Christmas Parade. It was a chilly evening which gave everyone the spirit as they awaited the arrival of Santa. This year Mrs. Claus was able to take a break from baking cookies and fruitcake and accompanied Santa to ride on the float and welcome in the holiday shopping season in Independence. They were also accompanied by two elves and Rudolph.



BULLDOG STATION

323 E. Main

Jim and Keli Tuschman have supported the community for several years now even as Texas residents. Keli Shanks grew up in Independence, Kansas but left the area when she started working for Koch Industries and moved to Houston, TX. However, Keli and Jim still visited the area throughout the year to visit her parents, Jerry and Etta Shanks

They decided to put in Bulldog Station this summer as a fun, family project as the property is owned by Jerry Shanks. Bulldog Station carries a fun, eclectic collection of gift items and Bulldog themed items. Some of the things that you can find are hairbrushes from Pylones in Paris, Emi-Jay hairbands/hair ties, hand crafted bracelets and necklaces, quilted duffle bags that can be monogrammed, English Country Pottery, and of course Bulldog t-shirts, sweatpants, hats, stocking caps, and acrylic cups. Bulldog Station also has some items made by Independence residents and some antiques/used items. It really is a fun place to come look around and see what you can find.

Etta Shanks runs Bulldog Station, Keli & Jim call her the manager even if she doesn't want to be. Jim Tuschman is at the store for about 1 week per month and during the various holidays you can find the entire family. Jim and Keli have a six year old daughter, Mae and a four year old son, Max.



SHOP LOCAL
It's all here in Independence!

2011 Kansas Main Street Awards of Excellence



Wanda Mayo, Community Volunteer Award



Montgomery County Action Council, Excellence in Public/Private Partnership



Hotel Booth, Excellence in Historic Preservation

2011 Kansas Downtown Symposium

The annual Kansas Downtown Symposium was held October 12-14 in Independence. The attendees included main street directors, board members and volunteers; downtown business owners and managers; and city, county and economic development officials from the 25 Kansas Main Street designated communities.

Featured speakers were Tom Shay, Kathy La Plante [National Main Street] and Todd E. Tracy [Illinois Entrepreneurship Network]. They presented sessions on getting your businesses to be connected; key to building strong retailers; preserving downtowns, one building at a time; building tomorrow's entrepreneur today and long-term revitalization.

Independence was the host for the ice breaker on Wednesday evening and gave the attendees "A Taste of Independence" at the Booth Hotel with 12 restaurants and caterers serving special items from their menus. The evening was topped off with our version of "The Amazing Race" held in downtown with the first two teams to complete the race winning great items from Neewollah headquarters. A big **THANK YOU** to Janet Demo and her friends for this fun event.



The best gifts come from our downtown merchants and businesses!

THANK YOU to all of our members who are listed on the insert. We appreciate your continued support of Independence Main Street and look forward to working with you and for you in 2012 to keep downtown the heart of Independence.

2011 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Kyra Mott, President*First Federal Savings & Loan***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***Karen Morrison***Standard Motor Products***Jason Rutledge***Edward Jones & Co.***Lisa Wilson, Ex-Officio***Independence Chamber of Commerce***Brad Eilts, Ex-Officio***Montgomery County Action Council***Donna Dittmer, Executive Director****Quarterly Training with Kansas Main Street**

Did you know that all members of Independence Main Street can attend quarterly training with Kansas Main Street and it's **FREE**. Yes, great speakers and helpful topics and it's free to our members. The next training will be January 12th in El Dorado. The workshop title is: A 4-Point Approach to Economic Development. The speaker will be Todd Barman, Sr. Program Officer with National Main Street. For more information, contact the office at 331-2300.

Check us out at 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.

**Mark your calendar.....**

March 10, 2012 12th Annual Fund-raiser

April 1-4, 2012 National Main Streets
Conference in Baltimore, MD

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVENTS

- Host community for the 2011 Kansas Downtown Symposium
- Accredited as a 2011 National Main Street Program
- Successful 11th annual fund-raiser & funds used to promote downtown through expanded media coverage
- Received Awards of Excellence for Historic Preservation, Excellence in Public/Private Partnership and Community Volunteer Award
- Partnered with Optimist for the annual nighttime Christmas Parade
- Placed lights in the downtown trees for the holiday season
- Issued over 1000 gift certificates for shopping local
- Successful membership campaign
- Participated in the annual downtown clean-up day
- Photos With Santa & Mrs. Claus

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 \$ 125
- Retail/more than 25 employees \$ 275
- Restaurants/Hotels/Motels \$ 125
- Professional/Service/Medical \$ 175
- Financial/Media/Industry/Utility \$ 275
- 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

- December 7 Promotions Committee, 8 AM
- December 19 Board of Directors, 12 Noon
- January 12 Kansas Main Street training, El Dorado, 10 AM-5 PM
- February 22 "Muffins with Main Street" 7:30 AM, Museum



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DOWNTOWN

the  of Independence