

Downtown Digest

News and information on what's happening in Downtown St. Joseph, Missouri.

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From the Director:

.As you have probably read in the newspapers, seen on television and heard on the radio, we have been in the process of establishing a downtown TIF plan for awhile. The inception of the plan began over two years ago when we received the designation as a DREAM community by the state of Missouri. To achieve the goals we outlined in our DREAM application the state's consultant's realized that we would need some funding incentives. One of those incentives was TIF financing. The state worked with city staff to create a beneficial TIF plan for the downtown. Due to the fact that we didn't have a "master developer" for the area, the city became the developer of the plan. The state and the city worked on establishing the boundaries of the district. Since the area encompasses approximately one hundred and thirteen acres, it was divided into four districts. This way, we can show the impact of the development. The original intent of TIF was to improve blighted areas, therefore our central business district was a perfect fit for this type of development incentive. The TIF commission thought that it was an exceptional plan to achieve the goals of downtown redevelopment. Since each project will be presented separately before the TIF commission and city council we can make sure that they meet the criteria established in the plan. The concept had some challenges gaining support from the city council. Apparently some districts in the community are not in support of TIF financing. In addition, three of our council members own downtown property and were unable to vote due to a conflict of interest. By working together, we were able to overcome the challenges of those opposed to the TIF plan for downtown. Thank you for all your support as we strive to make downtown St. Joseph a better place to live, work and visit.

Rhabecca Boerkirchen



Your Tax Dollars at Work....

Maintenance of the “Gateway Park” and the planting of the downtown flower planters was provided by funding from the Special Business District. Improvements to Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square will begin this summer. Plans are to replace the crumbling limestone walls, improve the gazebo and build flower planters.

"Sounds of Summer"

Celebrating Ten Years!

It's the tenth anniversary of the "Sounds of Summer" concert series. The St. Joseph Downtown Association began the series as a way to invite people downtown and see the positive progress that is taking place. The concerts began with a small audience and have grown substantially over the years. It's a "fun" way to kick off the weekend. Every Friday night, the Association offers cold drinks, hot dogs, chili dogs and pizza for fans to enjoy while they listen to live music. It makes for a great combination on a summer evening. The schedule for the remainder of the summer is:

July 10th—Private Stock

July 17th—Anna Lee and the Lucky So and Sos

July 24th—Xtatic Band

July 31st—Mizzourah Mud Bugs



Downtown Events

Civic Arena:

July 25th—Darcee’s School of Dance Recitals
August 14th—St. Joseph School District Convocation

1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Missouri Theatre:

July 17th—Robidoux Residents Theater presents “Fiddler on the Roof”.....7:30 pm
July 18th— Robidoux Residents Theater presents “Fiddler on the Roof”.....7:30 pm
July 19th—Robidoux Residents Theater presents “Fiddler on the Roof”.....7:30 pm
August 1st-Creative Arts Production presents “Oliver”.....7:00 pm
August 2nd-Creative Arts Production presents “Oliver”.....2:00 pm
August 8th—New Generation Singers Homecoming Concert.....7:00 pm

Trails West! to be held August 21st-23rd

St. Joseph’s largest arts festival, Trails West! will be held August 21st through the 23rd at Civic Center Park in downtown St. Joseph.

Celebrating the unique cultural heritage of St. Joseph, admission for this year’s festival will be a commemorative button available for purchase for \$6 before the event or \$8 at the gate. The button is good for admission all three days of the event. Headline entertainment at the festival is top notch and the 2009 line-up won’t be a disappointment.

Kicking off the event on Friday night will be blues rock star Joe Bonamassa. On Saturday, country stars Luke Bryan and Heidi Newfield will be on the main stage. The festival will conclude with the legendary sounds of the 80’s band Loverboy. The event will also feature additional entertainment, arts and crafts and marvelous food. For more

information, contact the Allied Arts Council office at (816) 233-0231.



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Downtown Partnership

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St. Joseph Downtown Partnership Corporation Founded in 1998

Our Mission

The St. Joseph Downtown Partnership is a collaborative effort of individuals and organizations committed to maintaining the vitality of the downtown area. Dedicated to improving the heart of the city, the Partnership provides collective leadership to focus on economic development, promotion and preservation of downtown.

Departure of the Downtown Digest

The St. Joseph Downtown Partnership has produced and distributed the Downtown Digest newsletter since 2004. The Downtown Digest was mailed to over 500 businesses, property owners and individuals. In an effort to reach more people and spread the news about what is happening downtown, the Partnership has made the decision to start distributing the newsletter via email. We will also be changing the format and producing the newsletter on a monthly basis. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please provide us with your email address. Our email address is downtwnps@swbell.net. If you prefer to continue receiving the newsletter via regular mail please call our office at 233-9192.

