



DIGGING IN FOR THE DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT

A record crowd of volunteers turned out on a sunny day to help kick-off the summer planting season in the Downtown Waterfront.

The 4th Annual "Dig in for the Downtown Waterfront" was held at Bayfront Park on May 31st. More than 60 people donned their gardening gloves and put their gardening tools in motion to help fill approximately 180 streetscape planters with bright, colorful flowers.

"This is such a great opportunity for volunteers to share their community pride," said Greater Downtown Council President Kristi Stokes. "We have a lot of volunteers who return each year because they enjoy gardening and they want to assist with beautification efforts in the Downtown Waterfront." Many of the volunteers were members of the Duluth Garden Flower Society, which has been a strong supporter of efforts to keep the Downtown streetscape alive with color.

In addition, a large group of students from Harbor City International Charter School walked over from their Downtown classrooms to pitch in and lend a hand.

Thanks to the assistance of City crews, the planters were moved to adorn the sidewalks of Canal Park and Superior Street. Watch for the Duluth Downtown Waterfront District Clean & Safe Team to be hard at work watering and maintaining the planters, as well as 140 hanging baskets this summer. **gdc**

SURVEY SAYS...Strong First Year for Duluth Downtown Waterfront District

One of the most important aspects of a new program is the ability to track its successes and its challenges. A recent survey conducted for the Greater Downtown Council found many successes in the start-up year of its special service district.

The Duluth Downtown Waterfront District was implemented in early 2005. Under the plan, property owners within the district boundaries agreed to pay an additional charge for enhanced services and programs. It also brought together stakeholders under the common goal to work to stabilize and strengthen the Downtown Waterfront's environment, thereby improving its competitiveness in the region.

A random sampling of Duluth area residents last year set a benchmark level of awareness and attitudes about the Downtown Waterfront, and a second wave of research this year has helped us measure the impact of some of the district's work, especially along the lines of marketing communication efforts.

The survey found that after just one year of operation, 40% of the respondents were aware of the DDWD's Clean and Safe Team, with 60% of those aware

saying the Team made them feel safer in the downtown area. The Clean and Safe Team members serve as uniformed ambassadors for the downtown, providing an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department, offering hospitality services to visitors and keeping the sidewalks and public areas free of litter and debris. This also generated a slight increase in the percentage of respondents feeling safe about being in the downtown, with 10% more respondents saying they felt very safe in the central business district.

Even more importantly, there was a 10% increase in the percentage of respondents saying they felt downtown Duluth was "doing great." The Greater Downtown Council and its service district are working hard to continue efforts to strengthen the downtown area, and Duluthians are taking notice. Plus, more than half of the respondents recall seeing advertising for the Downtown Waterfront over the past six months. Although attitudes have been impacted, the survey respondents' behavior has not yet changed, but such a change in behavior takes time. It is our hope that by next year we will

also see an increase in the percent of area residents shopping, dining or making entertainment visits to the downtown area.

In other opinions about the downtown area, the perception of a lack of parking continues to be the greatest challenge, but there was an 11% decrease in the percentage of respondents saying that they had parking concerns. It's hoped that the recent addition of way-finding signage for public parking will also help guide motorists to the many parking options available downtown. And the first thing that comes to mind for most people when they think of the downtown area is the variety of restaurants and unique shops.

As an organization, we have felt that we were on track with our efforts in the downtown area. This survey just reinforces it. With much work still to be accomplished, we are determined to create one of the most successful mid-sized central business districts in the United States within the next ten years.

Thank you for supporting our efforts!

A message from Kristi Stokes
GDC President **gdc**



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Great News

FROM THE GREATER DOWNTOWN COUNCIL

Celebrate Downtown Duluth SIDEWALK DAYS • July 12—14

Get geared up for fun and excitement in beautiful Downtown Duluth this summer during the Downtown Duluth Sidewalk Days Festival. This year's event takes place from Wednesday, July 12th – Friday, July 14th and is sure to be one of the most exciting years to date. The streets will be riddled with live entertainment, mouth-watering food and great shopping deals that are sure to please even the most disconcerting taste.

Sidewalk Days is a chance for the entire Downtown to unite and show its community spirit. It also allows community members to get a taste of all the exciting things happening in our Downtown. Superior Street will be blocked off from 4th Avenue West to 1st Avenue East making this year's Sidewalk Days 5 blocks of sizzlin' fun! Sidewalk Days festivities also extend all over the downtown area from the First Street merchants to Fitters Brewery Complex and everywhere in between, businesses are encouraged to join in on the special celebration!

Don't miss out on live music performances, the US Army rock climbing wall, and a number of great children's rides. Merchants, along with offering great deals, will also be holding demonstrations and special activities that will be fun for the whole family.

The party doesn't stop at dusk! On Wednesday July 12 the 6th Annual Classic Car Show and Harley Revue will again fill 7 blocks of downtown. July 13 brings the 3rd installment of our new summer concert series Rock the Block. So, kick back after a day of heavy duty shopping and enjoy music by Twin Cities band Dazy Head Mazy. The celebration wraps up with an extended Street Dance on First Street. Get your dancing shoes on and enjoy the music on Friday July 14 from 6 pm until midnight and from 4:00 pm until midnight on Saturday, July 15.

Make Downtown Duluth your destination for the Annual Sidewalk Days Festival! **gdc**



Sidewalk Days Festival
Downtown Duluth
July 12, 13, 14

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WELCOME NEW GDC MEMBERS

Andresen & Butterworth, P.A.
306 W. Superior St. #1000

Garon Bros. Jewelers
217 W. 1st St.

Green Mercantile
209 E. Superior St.

Izzy Magic
123 W. Superior St.

Jauss Properties
1931 E. 2nd St.

London Road Car Wash
1530 London Road

Minnesota Teen Challenge – Duluth
2 E. 2nd St.

Richard Holmstrom, Attorney
319 W. Superior St. #202

Renegade Comedy Theatre
222 E. Superior St.

State Farm Insurance/Barbara J. Carr
302 W. Superior St. #505

Twin Ports Insurance
1309 Kenwood Ave.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DOWNTOWN ?

BAYFRONT FESTIVAL PARK
School's Out Picnic
June 21 (Wed.) Noon-3 pm

Bayfront Concert
June 22 (Thurs.)
July 6, 13, 20, 27 7 pm

Fourth Fest
July 4 (Tues.)

Bayfront Reggae Festival
July 8 (Sat.) Noon

Green Man Festival
July 14-16 (Fri.-Sun.)

Duluth Festival of Culture
July 22-23 (Sat.-Sun.)

THE DEPOT
Free Antique Appraisal
July 19, (Wed.)

Duluth Garden Flower Society
July 29 (Sat.)
Noon-5 pm

DOWNTOWN DULUTH
Downtown Duluth's Summer Concert Series
June 15 - The Urban Hillbilly Quartet
June 29 - Midnight Ride
July 13 - Dazy Head Mazy
July 27 - Umbrella Bed

August 10 - The High Bridge Flyers
August 24 - The State Champs
5-7 pm (Thurs.)

6th Annual Classic Car Show & Harley Revue
July 12 (Wed.) 5-8 pm

Downtown Duluth Sidewalk Days
July 12-14 (Wed.-Fri.)

Street Dances on First Street
July 14 & 15
6 pm to Midnight (Fri.)
3 pm to Midnight (Sat.)

DULUTH PLAYHOUSE
"Once Upon a Mattress"
July 20-23, 27-30
7:30 pm (Thurs.-Sat.)
2 pm (Sun.)

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY
Minnesota Ballet Student Summer Performance
July 28 (Fri.)

FITGER'S BREWERY COMPLEX
Summer Solstice
June 18 (Sun.)

SAILBOAT RACES
June 21 (Wednesdays)
July 5, 12, 19, 26
6-8 pm

Scottish Highland & Dancing Competition
June 24 (Sat.) 9:30 am

Fitter's Sidewalk Days
July 12-15 (Wed.-Sat.)

30TH ANNUAL GRANDMA'S MARATHON
June 17 (Sat.) 7:30 am

16TH ANNUAL GARRY BJORKLUND HALF MARATHON
June 17 (Sat.) 6:30 am

LAKE PLACE PARK
Great Northern Songwriters Series
June 13, 20, 27 (Tuesdays)
July 11, 18, 25
August 1, 8, 15, 29
12 Noon - 1 pm

Live at Lake Place
June 16, 23, 30 (Fri.)
July 7, 14, 21, 28
12:15 pm

LAKEWALK
Dances on the Lakewalk
July 14-15 (Fri.-Sat.) 7 pm

NORTH SHORE SCENIC RAILROAD
Pepsi Marathon Train
June 17 (Sat.) 5:30 am

All-City Senior Picnic Train
July 27 (Thurs.) 10:30 am

TUGBOAT CHILDREN'S THEATRE
"The True Story of the Tortoise and the Hare"
July 15-23

VISTA FLEET
Father's Day Brunch
June 18 (Sun.)
Noon-1:30 pm

Fireworks Cruise
July 4 (Tues.)
9:15-11:15 pm

Fireworks Dinner Cruise
July 4 (Tues.)
6-10:30 pm

JULY'S SWEET SOUNDS

Rock the Block!

Summer fun has begun and we are livin' it up on the bricked streets of Downtown Duluth. Rock the Block, our new summer concert series, is under way bringing its sweet sounds to the Downtown. Marketing and Event Coordinator Laura Nelli recently had the opportunity to speak with Will Bauermeister of Dazy Head Mazy and Mitch Thompson of Umbrella Bed. These two bands will be performing in our July segment of Rock the Block! Read on to discover just why these bands were selected to rock the streets of Downtown Duluth.



DAZY HEAD MAZY

July 13, 5 to 7 pm
200 Block West Superior Street

An interview with Will Bauermeister

LN – *Dazy Head Mazy has been around for a while now can you give us an understanding of how the band was formed and where you got your start?*

WB – Summer 95, Mankato MN, 4 people in two different bands, common friend, Doug Gerdes suggested we get together. BAM! Dazy Head Mazy

LN – *The Rock the Block summer concert series has quite a wide selection of unusual names. Could you let us know how the band agree on the name of Dazy Head Mazy and what are its origins?*

WB – Original Bass Player, Big fan of Dr Seuss. Suggested Naming the band after a book published posthumously.

LN – *Give us a hint as to what type of a show you guys put on?*

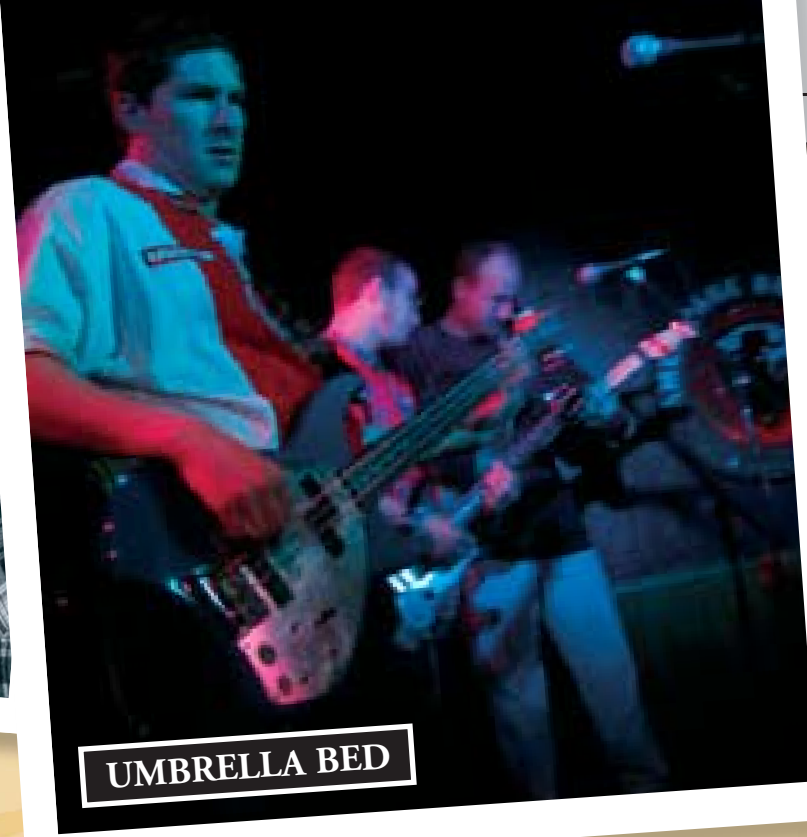
WB – Hint of Blues, Hint of Ireland, Hint of Southern Rock.

LN – *Lyrics are a large part of what makes your music so popular, could you let us in on your song writing process?*

WB – Thank you. Main Songwriter being myself, songs are written as a response to life in general. Some songs are blatant; others are codes for events or concepts. The music is written first, then the words.

LN – *What are some fun facts about Dazy Head Mazy and/or its band members?*

WB – We all have the ability to look into the present and predict the past. **GDC**



UMBRELLA BED

July 27, 5 to 7 pm
100 Block of West Superior Street

An interview with Mitch Thompson

LN – *Umbrella Bed is a Ska band. Can you please explain what Ska music is?*

MT – BEST ANSWER: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ska>

LN – *What sets Ska music apart from the rest and can you give us a hint as to what type of a show you put on?*

MT – We have an extremely energy based show. You have to see it to understand, but there is never really a moment when there is not some sort of action happening. With 9 people on stage, playing a very up-beat style of music, people are never bored watching us.

LN – *The Rock the Block summer concert series has quite a wide selection of unusual names. Could you let us know how the band agreed on the name of Umbrella Bed and what are its origins?*

MT – I do not know, really. After 11-years the story has changed and well, become less true. I just think the two words sounded interesting together, and we have ever since been stuck with it. We were supposed to only play one show at a basement party in the summer of 1995. Had we known we were going to still be around, we might have put more thought into it. But, really, what's in a name anyway?

LN – *Umbrella Bed is a well-known Ska band that has traveled all over the world spreading its brand of music. What would you say is the most interesting place you've played and give us a good story to go along with it?*

MT – Tough question, there have been so many great moments, but I would have to say the two sold-out shows we played in France in the cities of Dijon and Nancy were amazing and like “out-of-body” experiences for all of us. The people just went crazy when we played. We couldn't even hear on stage to count off the next song they were cheering so loud. Funny thing is, I am not sure they even really knew us. They just wanted to have a good time, and we gave them the means. We just feed off them, they feed off us and the two shows were beyond belief. We also played a show in Novi Sad, Bosnia. They hadn't had a USA band in a while, and we were a bit naïve about what it would mean to play in a country that had been bombed by NATO/USA planes just a few years earlier. Two people with the band, not in the band, were attacked but not seriously hurt before the show. The bouncers kept “unfriendly types” from entering the show and causing a commotion. After the show, we were told to leave immediately, but the audience again was so enthusiastic and appreciative...they had no money so we just started giving away t-shirts and CDs to say thank you back. Our record label guy had a huge bruise on his leg from being hit by a bat. Crazy, scary and we left with a better understanding that the world is a very complicated place. Music can make a big difference in crossing over that divide though.

LN – *What are some fun facts about Umbrella Bed and/or its band members?*

MT – Our lead singer is the COO of the Walker Art Center. Our guitar player Martin (Cappy) travels around the world to pick up organs for transplants Our full-time job list includes: film/video industry, president of book publishing company, computer geeks, college student, stay at home mom, newspaper people and a small business owner. **GDC**



The Great Northern Songwriters Series LIVE AT LAKEPLACE PARK

Downtown Duluth's Lakeplace Park will be filled with music once again this summer. The Great Northern Songwriters Series will make the “little park above the freeway” home to performances of original music from local songwriters and composers on Tuesdays from 12 Noon to 1 PM throughout the summer.

“Duluth has a rich history of songwriters and composers with a unique perspective on the world,” says Diane Soden-Groves, co-owner of Great Northern Music Center, 132 East Superior Street. “We wanted to put some of these amazing, creative people in front of their own home-town audience.” Featured artists will include Ian Alexy, The Cosmic Pit Orchestra, Bill Isles, John Ward & Laurie Hatten, Robi Meyerson, Ron Ayers & Wes Hadrich, Arlene Anderson, Mary Bue, Emma Rustan, Rachael Kilgour, and Charlie Parr.

The Great Northern Songwriters Series runs through August 15. It will be hosted by the City of Duluth Parks and Rec. Department and sponsored by Great Northern Music Center, with promotional assistance provided by the Greater Downtown Council. **GDC**



ARTIST	DATE
Ian Alexy.....	June 6
The Cosmic Pit Orchestra	June 13
Bill Isles	June 20
John Ward & Laurie Hatten	June 27
Robi Meyerson	July 11
Ron Ayers & Wes Hadrich	July 18
Arlene Anderson.....	July 25
Mary Bue.....	August 1
Emma Rustan.....	August 8
Rachael Kilgour.....	August 15 (Rain date).....
Charlie Parr	August 22
	August 29

DOWNTOWN PERK George Sherman to be next guest speaker

The Greater Downtown Council has been pleased to add another benefit for our members and special service district property owners.

“Downtown Perk,” was introduced earlier this year as a new quarterly breakfast meeting that allows members to network with fellow business professionals and learn more about the latest projects or issues impacting the Downtown area.

Duluth Police Chief Roger Waller served as the guest speaker, providing valuable information on the latest crime trends and Police Department staffing levels for the

DOWNTOWN PERK
Thursday – August 17, 2006
7:30-8:30 AM
Radisson Hotel Duluth - Harborview
Cost: \$10
RSVP: srogge@downtownduluth.com

summer season. Chief Waller and his staff have worked closely with the GDC and the Duluth Downtown Waterfront District to address safety issues that impact the Downtown area. Their dedication has helped improve the overall quality of life and further strengthen our business district. In addition to the presentation by Chief Waller,

GDC President Kristi Stokes also provided an update on the Clean & Safe Team and its plans for the summer. The Team will increase to 11 ambassadors for the busy summer months, providing hospitality and public space maintenance services.

Mark your calendar for August 17th to join us for the next “Downtown Perk” featuring developer George Sherman of Sherman Associates as the guest speaker. Sherman will be discussing the new Duluth Sheraton and 311 Superior Condominiums. This development project includes 33 upscale condominium units above a Sheraton Hotel in the Old Downtown. **GDC**

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