



Great News

FROM THE GREATER DOWNTOWN COUNCIL

INTRODUCING ... PRIME TIME DOWNTOWN

It's just like daytime,
only later.

Downtown Duluth has so much to offer everyday, including the unique shops and the fabulous restaurants. But what happens when your day is filled with juggling kids, appointments, meetings, deadlines and whatever else is included in that daily ritual called work? It's hard to get away during the day, so that's why many downtown shops are bringing back an old tradition of staying open late Monday nights so you can take time to enjoy your shopping and dining experience.

The idea came from within the Greater Downtown Council retail membership, and it quickly started gaining momentum as neighbors encouraged neighbors to participate in the new campaign. Although it is a concept that has been dusted off from years ago, there is renewed energy to further help create a more vibrant downtown community after 5 p.m.



Extended Evening Shopping Hours.
Every Monday Night.

A growing group of businesses will be keeping its doors open late until 8:00 p.m., joining the businesses that already maintain extended evening hours. It is also hoped that customers to the downtown will be greeted by new activities on Monday nights, as work is underway to follow up on several ideas generated through the GDC membership.

We've already heard from Duluthians who are pleased

with the change in hours, and some have shared their memories of packing the family into the car to visit downtown for the former Monday night tradition.

Tell us what you think.
Visit our Web site at www.downtownduluth.com to offer comments and/or suggestions for Prime Time Downtown.



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many hands have pitched in to make our entire community, from the parks and neighborhoods to the business districts more attractive and inviting. During this campaign, work crews made an initial impact in the downtown with a clean sweep of some concentrated areas. Crews piled up many bags of debris that had accumulated over the winter months, hidden by the banks of snow. But this is

positive program for all the parties involved. It helps to provide a more clean, safe and inviting environment for the downtown businesses and it teaches the students some valuable lessons on responsibility.

While these crews will ramp up their efforts over the next few weeks to ultimately work a six-day-a-week schedule, it's important to note that we all must play a role in

together, we can accomplish so much more for the betterment of our business district.

The image of our downtown waterfront is vital to the entire community and for many visitors, it is where they gain their first impression of Duluth. Just like ones own living room, it's easier to entertain guests when they are enveloped by neat, clean and comfortable surroundings.

PITCHING IN FOR A CLEAN AND SAFE BUSINESS DISTRICT

With rain showers washing away the dirt and debris of winter, the Greater Downtown Council is committed to a season of consistent cleaning in the downtown community.

Thanks to the recent citywide Clean and Green campaign,

just the first step. Students from Northwood Children's Services now make it a part of their regular routine to visit the downtown, picking up litter and debris. This service is made possible through a cooperative effort with the GDC and the City of Duluth, and it's a

making the program a success. Many business owners take great pride in their storefront space, and it shows. They frequently give it a clean sweep for their customers and clientele. To these dedicated leaders, I applaud you. But I would like to encourage others to follow this example, because, by working

As employers, employees and residents, I encourage you to portray a sense of pride in your own downtown business district. After all, many will tell you, this is the living room of our community.

Kristi Stokes, GDC President



REV UP FOR ... CLASSIC CAR SHOW ... SIDEWALK DAYS ... STREET DANCE ...



The GDC planning committee is gearing up for four days of fun, as the Sidewalk Days celebration will hit the downtown streets on July 17-20, 2002.

Retailers are prepared to move merchandise at great prices during the spectacular shopping spree and restaurants will be offering tantalizing treats. In addition to the daytime celebrations, the evenings will also play host to special summertime activities. Stick around on opening day as the 2nd Annual Classic Car Show is scheduled for 5 pm along Superior Street's historic corridor east of Lake Avenue. With more than 120 cars participating in last year's event, the committee is hoping to expand the boundaries to better accommodate additional car buffs. Evening activities wrap up with the traditional street dance on First Street Friday night, in which Pioneer Bar and Norman's bring in crowd-pleasing performers. And Saturday is expected to take on a whole new twist.

Please contact the GDC office if you are interested in lending a helping hand with the event planning.

SHOWCASING DOWNTOWN LIVING



For Allan Apter, it's only a few steps to head home for lunch, the hardware store is just down the stairs and there's no need to pull on a jacket and hop in the car to take in a show at the DECC or visit one of his favorite restaurants. That's part of the beauty of living in an upscale loft apartment in the heart of Duluth's downtown, right on Superior Street.

And it didn't take long for the novelty to rub off on his son, Abbot, who is now in the midst of renovating vacant space for his own apartment one floor below his father in the historic Crescent Building, which is owned by the Apter Family Limited Partnership. "I've seen how attractive it is to live downtown by watching my dad enjoy it," says Abbot as he lists off such great features as the skywalk system, telecommunications infrastructure, proximity to major attractions and the thought of no outdoor maintenance work, such as snow shoveling or lawn mowing.

The Apters have gained increased attention from the downtown community, as many are curious about their endeavors and what it takes to create downtown living space above commercial property. Abbot says he's heard it all, from comments that his father is "building a basement" to requests asking if he'll build another apartment for someone else.



They recently teamed up with the GDC to showcase their apartments by providing tours to the local media. As the community is faced with significant shortages in housing—from affordable to market rate—it is encouraging to see property owners take measures to put underutilized space back into productive use for housing. **GDC**

DOWNTOWN CITY COUNCILOR VENTURES INTO THE BUSINESS WORLD

Duluth City Councilor Russ Stewart spends his days providing lessons to students in his role as a Philosophy instructor at Lake Superior College. But now, Stewart is getting a few lessons of his own in the business world. As a fan of comics and games, he'll soon realize a long-time goal to open a bookstore featuring such products in Duluth's downtown.

Stewart has leased storefront space at 23 North Lake Avenue in the Norway Hall Building for his store, "Robin Goodfellow." The name was inspired by a

character in Shakespeare's book *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "I didn't even consider another location outside of the downtown," says Stewart who enjoys shopping, dining and meeting friends in the downtown. "Plus I see a lot of great things happening here, and I want to be part of the downtown renaissance."

As he focuses his attention on preparing the space for his business, Stewart admits there have been very few surprises for him. Perhaps that's because he has listened to the advice of others

and agrees: "Everything takes longer, costs more money and turns into more work than you imagined."

Even though the doors won't open officially until early June, the space has turned into a spot that has attracted a number of youth to meet and play board and strategy games. "I've said for years that the downtown needs something more for youth," says Stewart who feels he is already demonstrating that his store will help fill part of that void. His product line

will include books primarily geared toward science fiction, horror and fantasy, as well as costumes and a full line of games ranging from board and strategy games to collectible card games.



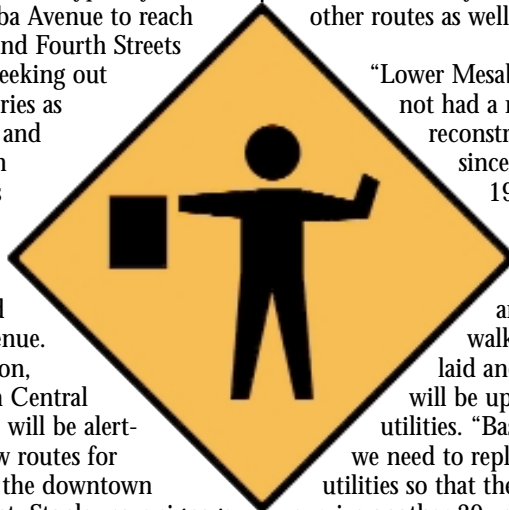
GDC

ON THE ROAD TO RECONSTRUCTION

With the summer road construction season kicking off, downtown will see some changes in traffic patterns due to the closure of Mesaba Avenue. MNDOT officials say the downtown streets likely will be seeing increased congestion over the months.

That's because Mesaba Avenue is going through a rebuild project, which is divided into two phases. According to Project Supervisor Don Stanley, the first phase, which is just getting underway, will include the lower portion of Mesaba from Superior Street to Fourth Street. However, after July 8th, the upper portion of the roadway will be shut down as well.

Motorists who typically traveled up Mesaba Avenue to reach Second and Fourth Streets may be seeking out such arteries as Superior and Michigan Streets as well as Fourth Avenue West and Lake Avenue. In addition, traffic on Central Entrance will be alerted to new routes for reaching the downtown waterfront. Stanley says signage will direct visitors to utilize Piedmont Avenue as their detour route, but he admits



local residents may likely find other routes as well.

"Lower Mesaba has not had a major reconstruction since the 1950's," says Stanley. New pavement and sidewalks will be laid and crews will be upgrading utilities. "Basically, we need to replace the utilities so that they can survive another 30 years or so." According to Stanley, the actual roadway will not look much different when the project is

finished because they won't be changing the grade or the width. However, it will be a bit smoother as they'll be repaving the route upon completion of the utility work.

While the project completion is not slated until mid-October, the DOT hopes to minimize the impacts of the road closure as much as possible. **GDC**

For weekly informational updates, click on the MNDOT link to our Web site at www.downtownduluth.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DOWNTOWN

MAY 18, 2002
SATURDAY
4th Annual St. Luke's
Walk/Run for Better Bones
8 a.m.-11 a.m.
Lakewalk

MAY 18, 2002
SATURDAY
Kiwanis Family Kite Fly
Bayfront Festival Park

MAY 18
SATURDAY
10th Annual Walk for Animals
9 a.m.
Fitger's Courtyard/Lakewalk

MAY 18
SATURDAY
Duluth-Superior
Symphony Orchestra
8 p.m.
DECC

MAY 19
SUNDAY
Spring Scents, Small Spaces
Sacred Heart Music Center

MAY 25
SATURDAY
Grand Opening of Nyanja!
Africa's Inland Sea
Great Lakes Aquarium

JUNE 14-15
SATURDAY/SUNDAY
Park Point Rummage Sale
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Park Point

JUNE 19
WEDNESDAY
Free Antique Appraisal
Noon-3 p.m.
Depot

JUNE 19, 26
WEDNESDAYS
Music and Sailboat Races
6-8 p.m.
Fitger's Courtyard

JUNE 19-22
WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
Fitger's Summer Solstice
Fitger's Brewery Complex

JUNE 21
FRIDAY
9th Annual William A. Irvin 5K
6 p.m.
Canal Park

JUNE 22
SATURDAY
6:30 a.m.
12th Annual Garry Bjorklund
Half Marathon
7:30 a.m.
26th Annual Grandma's Marathon
Canal Park

JUNE 29
SATURDAY
Scottish Highland
Dancing Competition
9 a.m.
Fitger's Brewery Complex

JUNE 29-30
SATURDAY/SUNDAY
Park Point Art Fair
Saturday 10-6;
Sunday 10-5
Park Point

JULY 4
THURSDAY
Fourth Fest
Bayfront Park

JULY 17-20
WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
Sidewalk Days
Wednesday, Classic Car Show
5-8 p.m.
Friday, Street Dance on First St.
Downtown Duluth



ON TASK

On Task

For the last five months the Mayor's Downtown Task Force has been gaining additional insight regarding issues in our downtown that impact its vitality and economic development potential. The task force members all have a major stake in the central business district and remain committed to developing strategies that will assist in obtaining a more vibrant downtown community. And while safety and security improvements have been one of the top priorities of the group and the Greater Downtown Council membership, several other issues have gained much attention as well.

Although a final report is not yet available, the group members look forward to sharing their recommendations with the administration and the community in the near future.

CANAL PARK?

What does Akron Ohio's Canal Park have in common with Duluth's Canal Park? Both have hit homeruns for the downtown, as they have been instrumental in bringing positive change to the surroundings, attracting thousands of people to the heart of the city.

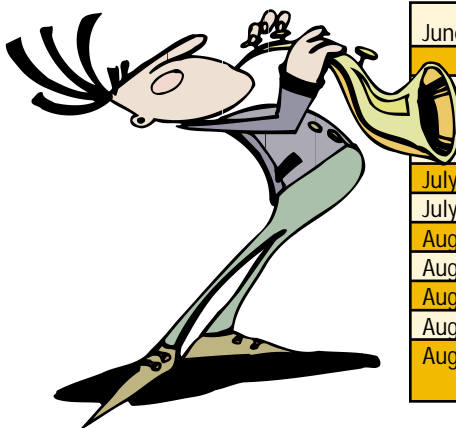


As Preservation magazine recently highlighted the move of minor and major league baseball stadiums back into the downtown, Akron's Canal Park gained high marks. City leaders boast about the revitalization from a struggling section of Main Street to an area lined with restaurants, bars and other businesses. Sound somewhat familiar? **GDC**

Preservation Magazine May/June 2002

Summer Lunch Breaks Are Music to My Ears

Join the fun at Lake Place Park this summer by taking in the sounds of local musicians. Stop by your favorite restaurant, grab a lunch to go and venture to the park where performances are scheduled each Friday during the noon hour.



June 14	Charlie Parr	Acoustic Folk/Blues
June 21	Timothy Soden-Groves	Folk/Rock
June 28	George Zezulka	Polka
July 5	Bill Flannagan	Variety
July 12	Lauren Burton	Acoustic Folk
July 19	Bill Isle	Americana
July 26	Crazed Fan	Folk/Rock
August 2	Stel & Lefty	Blues/Folk
August 9	Court Jesters	Brass Band
August 16	David James	Comedy/Magic
August 23	Alexis Simmons	Vocal Classes & Show Tunes
August 30	Swede Anderson's German Band	Brass Band



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Welcome New GDC Members

- Beacon Bank
- Famous Dave's
- Harbor City International School
- Horton's Gym
- Maki & Overom Chartered
- Melhus Management Company
- Minnesota Surplus & Outfitters
- Robin Goodfellow

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May, June and July Calendar

MAY 28, 2002
TUESDAY
GDC Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 a.m.
Chamber of Commerce

JUNE 11, 2002
TUESDAY
Comprehensive Plan
District 5 Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Central Hillside Community Center

JUNE 25, 2002
TUESDAY
GDC Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 a.m.
Chamber of Commerce

JULY TBA
Comprehensive Plan
District 5 Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Central Hillside Community Center

JULY 17-20
Sidewalk Days
Wednesday, Classic Car Show
5-8 p.m.
Friday, Street Dance on First St.
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