



HISTORIC HATTIESBURG DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association Plans to host Open-Air Market

Chris Bartels

The Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association and the City of Hattiesburg are inviting local farmers and citizens to come and be a part of the **Depot Flea Market**, beginning Friday, July 12, 2002, at the Depot in Downtown Hattiesburg. The Depot Flea Market is free and open to the public to come and set up their wares from 6 a.m. to 12 noon on Fridays through October. Anything from fresh produce to garage sale items is welcome at the market.

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The Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association is a member of the Mississippi Main Street Association



Let's make reservations Downtown

Valerie Wells

Downtown Hattiesburg is becoming an eating destination. **Tom White** plans to bring diners Downtown for their evening meal.

White owns **206 Front**, the newest restaurant in Downtown that takes its name from its address. 206 Front will open in July 2002.

"We are the first to remain open in the evenings," White said. That will make it just the place for Gallery Walk spectators and artists alike to meet Downtown for dinner.

"It has a big city, urban feel," said White. With its 16-foot ceilings, the restaurant will take advantage of its artsy feel. One wall will be gallery space for artists.

The renovated building across the street from City Hall has new architectural features facing Front Street, such as detailed columns and an arch over the front doors. Diners can also sit on the second floor and on a balcony that overlooks the Saenger Theater. A newly installed dumbwaiter is one of the many extras.

"The balcony overlooking Front Street can seat 30-40 people," White said. "They can relax and have a glass of wine before going to the Saenger."

The proximity to the Saenger Theater is a big draw for 206 Front, so much so that White plans to open on nights the restaurant normally would be closed if there is an event at the Saenger, whether it is a musical by the Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera, a concert by the Meistersingers, or a nationally known performer on tour.

"The menu will be eclectic," White said, "but will feature Italian cuisine." The restaurant will be open for lunch Tuesday through Friday. 206 Front will also be open for Sunday brunch, serving the many church congregations that meet in Downtown Hattiesburg weekly. The restaurant will be open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings as well as those special nights when the Saenger stage is occupied.

Also opening later this summer is another restaurant that has plans to serve food in the evening. The yet-unnamed eatery is on Walnut Street, directly across from Walnut Square. Contractor Ken Cooley is renovating the long unoccupied building into an Italian restaurant.

"It will have a Tuscan feel," said Kelly Thornton, spokesperson for the owners, the

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Tom White, Owner is pleased with the look at 206 Front. He promises you a great dining experience.

Walnut Square In Final Days of Completion

Kelly Thornton

Walnut Square, located at 124 Walnut Street in Downtown Hattiesburg, is in the final days of completion. In mid-January, **HMP Nursing Services, Marketing, and Human Resources** joined **Uni-Care RX** in occupying Walnut Square. After several months of very detailed construction, **Walnut Square Pharmacy, LLC** will open its doors to the public on July 1. Without a doubt, Downtown Hattiesburg will experience a new level of uniqueness and convenience through this multi-facet retail space. The old time pharmacy will not only be able to meet individual pharmaceutical needs, but will offer over the counter items as well. Walnut Square Pharmacy, LLC will be set up to accept most insurance plans by mid July. To add an additional "old time flavor" to the pharmacy there will be an ice cream parlor that will feature Blue Bell Ice Cream. By the end of July, Walnut Square Pharmacy and Ice Cream Parlor will be serving a light lunch menu.

To continue in its unique concept and design, Walnut Square will offer a gift and uniform shop. Although **Old Town Gifts and Uniforms** will appear to be a separate shop; it is constructed and featured as part of the pharmacy and ice cream parlor. The gift section is quite unique within itself. The selection of gifts will be moderately priced and will offer a variety for any occasion. If you are interested in personalizing your gift, Old Town Gifts will offer engraving. This service should be available in August and will only be available on items purchased at Old Town Gifts. Among the gift items, Old Town Gifts will feature Mustard Seed Ceramics. The people of Mustard Seed, a Christian community for mentally challenged adults, have carefully designed and created each piece, giving it a special uniqueness.

Featuring yet another item, Old Town Gifts and Uniforms gives Mom a convenient break by offering school uniforms. It isn't necessary to run all over town looking for the right size and style. The staff can help you order the size and style that is right for your child and within keeping of school regulations. Old Town Uniforms will offer individual uniform pieces in khaki, navy, white, red, green, and plaid. Along with school uniforms, those in the healthcare industry will be able to order scrubs from our catalogue. Old Town Uniforms will offer competitive prices and samples will be available for sizing.

Walnut Square Pharmacy and Ice Cream Parlor, as well as Old Town Gifts and Uniforms will be open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come see what Downtown Hattiesburg has to offer. ■



Owners, Janet and Mike McElroy, would like to invite you to **Walnut Square at Old Town**. Come enjoy a cone of Blue Bell – during the month of July, one scoop is only 99¢. Also pictured is employee Carla Rogers.

Open Air Market

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Sellers must bring their own tables, tents, covers, chairs, and anything else they will need. They may sell out of the back of their trucks. Permits may be obtained on site. There is no charge for the permits.

"We are excited about this opportunity to bring even more people Downtown," said Mayor Johnny DuPree. "We think the response for the Depot Flea Market will be good for other restaurants and businesses in this area as well."

Please call Bernice Linton at 583-4329 for more information. ■



Sara Crouch displays her homemade pet treats. Sara will have her treats at the Depot Flea Market.



Jim and Teresa Crouch of Sumrall exhibit their blueberries, which they will have at the Depot Flea Market along with other home grown produce and baked goods.

President's Message

Excitement is in the air in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg! We look forward to 206 Front Street and the Depot Flea Market to be up and running in July. Work continues at the Walnut Street Pharmacy as they get ready to serve customers. Thanks to the McElroys and Whites for believing in Downtown. Please support them!

Thanks also to those who have assisted in acquiring the Old Hattiesburg High School. Please contact Bernice if you can give in-service or in-kind to this wonderful project.

Please "talk up" investing in Downtown. Tax credits apply in many cases. Thank you all for your support. ■



Dwight Dyess

Nature Trail in Downtown

Valerie Wells

Visitors to Downtown Hattiesburg now have a nature trail that leads them to the Leaf River. **The Newman-Buschman Railroad Historic Neighborhood Association** has created a nature trail at the end of Newman and Buschman streets that meanders along Gordon's Creek to its confluence in the Leaf River. Many volunteer hours from neighbors, Youth Challenge students from Camp Shelby, and Boy Scout Troop 93 have made this possible at very little cost. Support from the City of Hattiesburg Department of Parks and Recreation proved invaluable to the neighborhood's project. In the near future, more signs marking the trail will be added along with signs identifying the native trees and plants. Newman-Buschman neighbors want to connect the trail to the train depot with a long-term vision of connecting to a larger Rails-to-Trails network. The neighborhood sees the nature trail as another way of connecting to Downtown rather than being "walled off." Besides the nature trail, the neighborhood wants to be connected to the Downtown area with similar signage, maintained sidewalks, and landscaping. To explore the trail, park at the end of Newman or Buschman streets. No cars are allowed on the trail. You can walk or ride your bike during daylight hours. Be sure to throw your litter away. ■



Valerie Wells invites you to explore the Nature Trail Downtown.



Bennie Sellers (left) and Mayor Johnny DuPree enjoy the Nature Trail created by the Newman-Bushman Railroad Historic Neighborhood Association.

Moore's Bicycle Shop Spearheads Transit Program

Pat Magee

In light of the upcoming installation of bicycle racks on the front of city buses, **Moore's Bicycle Shop** is poised for action with a new program to help workers lacking transportation to and from work. Moore's offers reconditioned adult bikes that employees can ride a few blocks to the nearest bus stop, place the bike on the front rack of the bus that travels across town, disengage the bike, and ride the few blocks away to work. Moore's average cost to repair adult bikes is \$30.00; yet if area employers will refer workers lacking transportation, employees will sign a waiver of liability and pay only \$10. This program started with a donation from Moore's Bicycle Shop of 20 reconditioned bikes, helmets, and bicycle locks; however, all additional older bikes may be dropped off at Moore's (across from the Zoo next to Wendy's) or call 544-1978. ■

Let's make reservations...

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McElroy family. "There will be northern Italian food and outside dining in the courtyard." Besides Florentine specialties, the menu will offer everything from steak to soup and salad.

The Walnut Street restaurant will open in August 2002.

Those aren't the only new eating destinations coming to town. To the west of their new restaurant on Walnut Street and directly across Gordon's Creek, the McElroys are opening a corner market and deli, where Walnut, Buschman, and Laurel streets meet like a cut pie. The corner market and deli will open in October 2002.

That's not all. **The Walnut Square Pharmacy and Ice Cream Parlor** opened July 1st. Thornton said the ice cream parlor would serve a light lunch, such as soup and a sandwich. Of course, the main attraction will be ice cream. Blue Bell ice cream will be the exclusive choice. Walnut Square Pharmacy and Ice Cream Parlor will be open Monday through Saturday.

"It's a great atmosphere. You have a variety of restaurants playing off each other," said Thornton.

The faithful standbys

Of course, restaurants are nothing new to Downtown. Several have continued operating even through



The renovated building across the street from City Hall has new architectural features. That is not all that is new at 206 Front. Come check it out.

the hard times when department stores moved to malls or when the economy took an unexpected dip. Many remain favorite places to grab a bite for lunch.

Gus's Café No. 2, 144 E. Front Street, has been serving hamburgers and fries for generations. Gus's also has a variety of po'boys and sweets. There's also an after-work crowd that meets for a beer, informal news, and maybe a game of pool.

One absolute specialty at Gus's is the Greek gyro, stuffed with lamb and lettuce and mouth-watering spices. If you go, be sure to ask if Miss Angela has made anything special that day. You might be rewarded with nutty and sweet baklava baked in phyllo or some homemade soup a la Georgian.

Another old-time standby is the **Coney Island Café**, 400 Main St. Coney Island remains one of the few places in town where you can grab some breakfast and overhear some gossip to go with your coffee. It stays packed all during lunch, with diners

getting a hamburger or the day's special.

Shelby's Coffee Café, 631 Main St., offers muffins, pastries, and a variety of coffees and teas, hot and cold for breakfast, and a variety of sandwiches, soups and salads for lunch. The large wooden chairs and big round tables make dining comfortable. Being the closest place to eat near the county and federal courthouses, there is always a packed house. Be sure to see the train engine mural on the inside wall.

The Coffee Break, 217 E. Front, is another popular spot for a simple sandwich, like a BLT, and, obviously, coffee. The site is well known and loved as the previous California Sandwich Shop at the corner of Front and Market. The corner building is charming architecturally and the food and coffee is always hot. Also, they have the best (maybe the only) beignets in town.

D's, 103 E. Front, offers a variety for lunch, from Ruben sandwiches to shrimp salads. The sandwiches are more high-end than some other eateries, but the daily surprises make it worth the trip. Pastries and pies are different every day. The lunch special one day might be ham and cheese quiche, while the next it might be the best gumbo available in the area.

The Downtown options continue to grow for diners. Let's do lunch. And let's plan to meet for dinner soon, too, before all the best tables are reserved. ■



The July through December 2002 Arts Calendar of Events Brochure is now available.

Please contact Bernice Linton at 583-4329 to get your latest copy.

Old High School Preservation Plans

Valerie Wells

A preservationist collaboration will save Hattiesburg's Old High School, 900 North Main St., from demolition.

The Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association will pay \$50,000 for the large, 3-story structure on North Main Street. The Association will purchase the property from owner Ray Sims, a Hattiesburg businessman. The remainder of the historic structure's \$350,000 value will be a gift to the Association.

The 86,000-square-foot building sits on 6 acres of property. The original Norman Romanesque building was built in 1911 and its addition in 1921. It is listed on the Mississippi Landmark and National Register of Historic Places. The North Main Historic Neighborhood Association acquired an historical marker on the site.

The Association's goal is to prevent the old high school from being torn down. The structure will go through a mothballing process to ensure it is safe, dry, and pest-free. A priority will be a new roof and new windows to weather-proof the building.

The Association is actively looking for tenants or investors who share a vision of a progressive Downtown.

"We would like to see it used to support the focus of Downtown, which is arts and entertainment," said Bernice Linton, executive director of HHDA. "We would like to see multi-use by multi-groups."

In recent years, the old high school had been proposed for the Mississippi High School for Fine Arts, now located in Brookhaven. The large amphitheater suggests a Downtown venue for ballet, little theater, and a community arts school. The old high school could be a base of operations for such groups.

The Association will apply for different grants to help restoration efforts. The City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County will help in those applications. The Association welcomes gifts of service and donations of any size. For information, call Bernice Linton at 583-4329. ■



What will be the future of the Old Hattiesburg High School? Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association is making plans. Suggestions are welcomed.



City Renews CDBG Façade Improvement Grant Program

The City of Hattiesburg is again taking applications for its CDBG Façade Improvement Grant Program for buildings located in the Central Business District. The program will provide CDBG grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 that can be used to reimburse up to 50 percent of the costs of façade improvement projects located within the designated area. The grant awards are for a maximum of \$10,000 for a single storefront or \$15,000 for a corner building.

The purpose of this program is to encourage building renovations that address blight conditions in Hattiesburg's Downtown area by offering financial incentives to property owners and tenants who improve the exterior appearance of the Downtown building.

For more information contact Deborah Conerly in the Department of Urban Development at 545-4590 or Bernice Linton, executive director of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association, at 583-4329.

Applications may be picked up in the Department of Urban Development on the First Floor of City Hall at 200 Forrest Street. ■

Saenger Theatre Receives Outstanding Historic Preservation Award

The Saenger Theatre was honored as one of 14 outstanding historic preservation projects in the state at the 2002 Heritage Awards Luncheon and Ceremony, held on April 27th at Key Field in Meridian. Mayor Johnny DuPree and Larry Albert of architectural firm Albert and Associates received the award.

According to the Mayor, "The Saenger Theatre is a great example of what a public-private partnership can come together and do. The magnificence of the Saenger would not have been possible without support from the entire community. It is a beautiful place the residents of this area and visitors will be able to enjoy for many, many years to come. We are honored to receive this award." ■



Mayor Johnny DuPree and Architect Larry Albert accept the Saenger's Heritage of Excellence Award.

Farmer's Market Business is Growing

Chris Bartels

The Hattiesburg Farmer's Curb Market, located at 1200 Corrinne St., is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 7 a.m.-12 noon. Local growers offer a wide variety of



Holt McMullan purchases baked goods from Elizabeth Barrett of Ellisville at the Farmer's Market on Corrinne Street.

products, including organic produce, canned jams and jellies, baked goods, house plants, handicrafts, and work by local artists. If it's home grown or home made, it's likely to be found at the Farmer's Market.

Many of the vendors were upbeat about recent business conditions. Edna Douglas believed that sales had increased since March. Aliun Palmer claimed that her canned jellies were the best seller. Elaine Reesor saw Saturdays as the busiest sale days. Some vendors were concerned with the recent dry conditions, but all seemed upbeat about the near future. Please support our local growers with your patronage.

For more information, please call 545-2718. For booth rental, call Bridget Reddit at 544-2718. ■

Old Time Festival Downtown

On May 11th, our Area Development Partnership held the annual Old Time Festival Downtown. The Downtown Association ran a booth that sold T-shirts and ornaments. Many thanks go to this year's hardworking HHDA volunteers, Jimmy and Betty Jones & Donna and Gary Woods. (Pictured are Donna and Gary Woods.)



Community Connections Receives Grant from Fannie Mae

Community Connections announced a new initiative to develop a Master redevelopment plan to preserve and revitalize the Mobile-Bouie neighborhood. Community Connections received a \$12,000 grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation to develop the plan. Community Connections will be creating a committee to work with the consultant and develop a resource strategy that can be accomplished by the resources currently available. ■

Medical Facility in Historic Downtown

Mariane Voorbrood

Surgical & Medical Associates, a satellite clinic of Hattiesburg Clinic located at 511 West Laurel Avenue in Hattiesburg, has changed its name to **Hattiesburg Clinic Downtown Medical Associates**. The name was changed because Hattiesburg Clinic surgeon, Dr. Kate Aseme has relocated to Forrest General Hospital as the Trauma Medical Director.

Charles D. Hernandez, D.O., and Havon Knight, M.D., Internal Medicine physicians, see patients at this location.

Internists or internal medicine physicians specialize in diagnosing and treating diseases in adults. They are trained to manage chronic diseases, and specialize in various areas including geriatrics, cardiology, endocrinology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases and oncology. Broadly trained, internists also manage a wide array of common complaints and general medical problems.

Dr. Hernandez received his

medical degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing, Mich. He then completed an internship at Detroit Osteopathic Hospital in Highland Park, Mich., and a residency in internal medicine at Detroit Osteopathic Hospital Corporation in Southfield, Mich., and Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. He is a diplomat of the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine and of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiner and a member of the American College of Osteopathic Internist, American Osteopathic Association, American Medical Association and Mississippi Osteopathic Association. He specializes in the management of hypertension.

A native of South Mississippi (Taylorsville), Dr. Knight received his undergraduate degree from the Honors College at the University of Southern Mississippi and later



obtained his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in Boston, Mass. He completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at Emory University Affiliated Hospitals in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Knight is a member of the American Medical Association, American College of Physician-American Society of Internal Medicine and Mississippi State Medical Association. He is board certified and a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Knight resides in Hattiesburg with his wife Nancy and their three children.

Office hours at Hattiesburg Clinic Downtown Medical Associates are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments with Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Knight may be made by calling 544-1261. ■

Key to a Better Downtown

From right: Mayor Johnny DuPree looks on as Bernice Linton presents a "Key to a Better Downtown" to Vice President Richard McNeel and President Gary Bailey of Johnson Bailey Henderson McNeel at the opening of their new office at 525 Main St. **Johnson Bailey Henderson McNeel** is the largest full-service architectural, interior design and planning firm in Mississippi, employing over 50 highly skilled architects, designers, and technical personnel.



Mississippi Main Street Association holds Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon



Mississippi Main Street Association President Billy Wiseman (center) awards Thirsty Hippo owners Erik Eaves (left) and Brad Newton (right) the Best New Development Award for a Main Street/Downtown area.

The Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) celebrated the achievements of the Mississippi Main Street Communities and Member Towns at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon held at the Crowne Plaza in Jackson, MS on Thursday, June 13, 2002.

Hattiesburg received two awards: **Best Newsletter** (Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association) and **Best New Development – The Thirsty Hippo**, located at 211-A Main Ave. The Thirsty Hippo boasts a New Orleans-style Jazz Pub with a beer garden courtyard. It has served as a magnet for the revitalization of the Downtown area's nightlife since its opening. Owners **Erik Eaves** and **Brad Newton** have successfully combined varied architectural elements such as stained glass, a Japanese-style koi pond, and a German-style beer garden. College students, patrons of the Downtown galleries, and Oktoberfest participants have enjoyed the casual, yet refined atmosphere the Hippo offers.

"The 2002 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon gives us the opportunity to celebrate a very important economic development program in the state of Mississippi," stated Beverly T. Meng, Executive Director of the MMSA. She added, "Since 1993, the Main Street program in Mississippi has created 1,866 new businesses and over 16,000 jobs in the 40 communities that have active Main Street programs."

Mayors, Alderpersons, Elected Officials, Main Street Managers and local Board Members from the state's 40 active Main Street programs and Member Towns heard about the accomplishments that have established Mississippi as one of the top Main Street programs in the nation. Mississippi leads the nation in Public/Private reinvestment with over \$1 billion reinvested on a local level as a direct result of the Main Street initiative. The Main Street program continues to be one of the most productive programs under the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Forty-eight states and over 2,000 communities in the U.S. are benefiting from the Main Street approach. ■

Downtown Merchants Attend Wholesale Business Show

Chris Bartels

Several representatives from Downtown Hattiesburg's business community attended the seventh annual Mississippi Market Wholesale Show on Sunday, June 16th. The Mississippi Development Authority hosted the show in Jackson. Its purpose is to offer merchants new opportunities to market goods that are hand-made and homegrown in the Magnolia state. Attendees included: Bernice Linton (Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association) Jeannie Ray (**The Coffee Break**), Jutta White (**206 Front**), Ellen and Betty McKenzie (**McKenzie's on Main**), Connie Warrell (**Forrest Paper**) and Janet McElroy, Nikki Bevon, and Kelly Thornton (**Walnut Square Pharmacy**).

Kelly Thornton found [the show] "to be very beneficial. We wanted to carry some additional products that are made in Mississippi. It was a good opportunity." Several shops and restaurants are now planning to offer more Mississippi-made items. Please come and support them with your patronage.



Jutta White (left) and Connie Warrell view examples of hand painted items at the Wholesale Show.

2002 HHDA Member Supporters

The Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association would like to thank all of the following companies and individuals for their support:

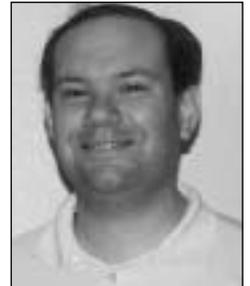
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 Willmut Gas Co.
 James Yelverton
 Joseph Yore

USM Student Interns

Two new student interns began working this summer with the Downtown Association.



Chris Bartels

Chris Bartels

is originally from Peabody, MA and has lived in Biloxi, MS for the past seven years. He is working towards a master's degree in Economic Development. He holds a BA in history from Providence College and a MS in history from USM.

Patricia McGhee



Patricia McGhee

is originally from McComb, MS, where she received an associate of arts degree in Pre-Elementary Education from Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, MS. Pat has lived in Hattiesburg for the past two years while completing undergraduate studies in Speech Communication and Special Education. She will graduate in December and plans a career in sales or human resources. ■

HHDA Contact Information

PROPERTY

If you have questions about available property or office space contact Bernice Linton. She will be a "clearing house" for Downtown space you may have to rent, purchase or lease. Send information about size, location and contact person to the address at right.

MEMBER/SUPPORTER

If you wish to become a Member Level of Supporter of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association please contact Bernice Linton at the address at right. Be a partner in the revitalization of Downtown Hattiesburg.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association (HHDA) conducts **monthly meetings**, held the last Thursday, that are open to the public. All Downtown supporters are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings where they can learn more about the active network of the HHDA committees.
7:30 a.m.
Hattiesburg Cultural Center
723 Main Street

NEWSLETTER

The HHDA publishes many newsletters throughout the year. Items submitted for the newsletter are welcomed.

HISTORIC HATTIESBURG DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

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