

A Green Downtown Champaign

By: C. Loving



A new development in green organizations in the Champaign-Urbana area is the emergence of the C-U Green Business Association created by three University of Illinois students. CUGBA's focus is sufficing businesses' desire to "go green"

by creating an avenue of collaboration and resource sharing. They are working to bring a green business certification program to the area that will recognize green businesses within the community and provide assistance in creating more sustainability. CUGBA's mission is to achieve a healthier and cleaner environment by helping businesses integrate environmental responsibility into daily operations in a manner that is sustainable as well as profitable.

Currently the organization is creating a pilot program and focusing on particular businesses to examine the effects the organization will have. Also they are conducting audits of businesses and working with them to find ways of being more green. The group was previously a student organization called Community Organized Recycling Efforts (CORE). After teaming up with the UIUC Facilities and Services Dept they created CUGBA. Some efforts they have already undertaken include a Greek recycling program, working to obtain a Coca-Cola Bin Grant, getting businesses to use compostable cups and composting these at the South Farms, organizing campus clean-up days, and many more.

For more information view their website at:
www.greencu.com

"This has got to be bigger than any party, any business, or anyone of us. We will create the environment of the future, either through action or inaction. We have a choice."

- John Duggan, CEO, Gazeley (2006)

Ten Steps On How To Go Green

1. Refurnish old furniture
2. Reduce amount of copies
3. Print double-sided copies
4. Carpool
5. Telecommute
6. Shop thrift stores for work clothes
7. Buy used books
8. Unplug unused objects
9. Use organic products
10. Ride the bus

Board of Directors:

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Mission Statement:

Our mission is to raise the quality of the Downtown experience for the Downtown Community and its visitors. We advocate for the unique and diverse character of the defined Downtown area — the historic, geographic and economic origin of the City of Champaign. We do this through outreach, partnership and by encouraging growth in the area and its citizens.

Special Thanks to Pavlov Media!

Thanks to their generous contribution, anyone with a wireless enabled device can now log on anywhere outside in Downtown.

www.pavlovmedia.com



Memo from Mary

Hello and Happy New Year:

Can you believe that 2009 is underway? Last year was a busy one for the Champaign Downtown Association. The Committees worked hard to complete their work plans, and I want to thank all those volunteers for their efforts.

The disaster in November at Neil and Main Streets was devastating. However, work has begun to clean up the site and to open Neil Street to traffic. CDA is looking at ways to help the downtown businesses through this difficult time. We will be working closely with the City of Champaign and the business owners to make the best of a less than great situation.

We are part of a thriving micro-urban scene and we want to spread the word about everything we have to offer. Our theme for 2009 is that downtown Champaign is open! We are encouraging the community and its visitors to shop the locally owned businesses and to frequent the bars and restaurants downtown. Our mission is to raise the quality of the downtown experience for everyone.

We have an ambitious work plan in place for this year. If you are interested in helping with our efforts, please contact me at 352-2400 or email mary@downtownchampaign.com for more details. If your business has not yet become a partner of CDA, I encourage you to do so. There are many benefits for those who choose to become a part of CDA.

Working together, we can enjoy a prosperous year. I look forward to the challenge.

Sincerely,
Mary Dennis
Executive Director

Fire Renovation Plans

As reported by Richard Joy, one of the property owners of the building that suffered in the November 7th fire:

“At the present, we are not planning anything for the property other than finishing the demolition so the street can be opened. It will be surrounded by plywood fencing after the building is gone and the hole is put in good order. I understand that requires a bit of work to assure proper drainage, etc., but then the hole in the ground will await development plans. That may be a bit time-consuming, and the current economy, both nationally and in Champaign County, is not inviting for development of new space downtown. Eventually, of course, thoughts will emerge and crystallize into a plan, but it is quite premature to try envisioning a development plan now. The City has no funds available to assist development, I’m told, so perhaps that will be considered when times are better as well.”



Promotion Committee By *Emily Schmit, chair*

The Promotions Committee and the Champaign Downtown Association want to thank all of the Window Wonderland participants who creatively decorated their storefronts. The window displays and decorations were awesome! And, congratulations to Upclose Printing and Marketing who was the winner of the contest. The Downtown Parade of Lights and the first annual Window Wonderland decorating contest were a huge success. We're already looking forward to next year!

The Promotions Committee is busy preparing for the numerous upcoming downtown events this Spring and Summer. From Ebertfest, Artists Against AIDS, Boneyard Arts Festival and the Illinois Marathon to the numerous Park District events such as Steetfests, Festival of the Arts, and Taste of Champaign, this summer downtown will be busier than ever. We'll be working with you in the coming weeks and months to find unique ways for your business to take part in the excitement. We'll be hosting a clean-up day in the Spring to kick-off the busy downtown season with clean streets and sidewalks. Stay tuned for information on how you can help.

Design Committee By *Larry Steinbauer*

The Design Committee is continuously working towards developing programs which encourage rehabilitation of historic structures and also encourage new investments in development and redevelopment of assets in the central business district. The Design Committee is working on reviewing and cataloging downtown's best assets, such as the historic buildings and pedestrian friendly streetscapes. In the past we have worked towards walking tours and are now looking at developing a tour of downtown theaters. We are always considering new opportunities and looking for more volunteers/supporters for creative ways to celebrate and learn of the design elements of our historic downtown. For more information contact me at: windwaterlight@aol.com.

Economic Restructuring Committee By *Lois Wacholtz*

The Economic Restructuring Committee is a large part of the Main Street Program for revitalization of downtown districts. We are currently working towards getting back together after the new year and reevaluating and using our new data software program. This system will allow CDA to use the same solution and share the same data. This new software allows a non-profit organization to run its entire business through a single integrated solution. Efforts of working with property owners, business owners, and others to find new purposes for unused space and converting it into productive property are continuously a focus discussion for the committee. For more information contact me at: lawacholtz@sbcglobal.net.

Organization Committee By *Carol Timms*

The Organization committee is continuously working on the goals of increasing membership by both maintaining current members and attracting new members; establishing a program for thanking and recognizing members and volunteers; working with each committee to identify and apply for at least three grants to support the Champaign Downtown Association; and taking the lead in providing a common set of organizational tools for CDA's use. We have created work plans for implementing tasks towards these goals. In the works is an efficient time line and budgets for then carrying through on these proposed tasks. Feel free to contact the committee at caroltimms@gmail.com.

Fundraising Committee By *Michael Royce*

The focus of the Fundraising Committee is to explore potential donations to help support the organization's promotion of downtown businesses. Currently we are discussing more events that are specifically created and sponsored by the Champaign Downtown Association as an additional revenue stream. Some opportunities we have specifically considered is a farmers market or flea market downtown. We have created a marketing plan for a media promotion for businesses affected by the Neil Street closing. Being a new committee, we are open to ideas and suggestions. If your business is interested in making a donation or you would like more information about the committee contact Mary at mary@downtownchampaign.com.

New Business Spotlight...

Blind Pig Brewery By: C. Loving

Chris Knight, the owner of the current Blind Pig Bar, is planning on developing a small scale brewery in what was previously Barfly at 120 North Neil Street. The new brewery plans to continue themes from the current bar with oak beams, antique paneling, and a vintage bar. The current Blind Pig Bar will remain in operation at its current location.

The plan for the new location is to brew and serve three types of beers- an English bitter, and India pale ale, and a stout. The new brewery will host a two-barrel (62 gallon) brewing system. Another dozen or so other

Knight had considered developing on Market Street under the title of the Boneyard Brewer but

determined the building unsuitable and desired a smaller operation. Barfly was purchased in May and was closed in December for construction to begin.

He was quoted as saying in the Champaign News Gazette his decision on selecting the new location:

“I decided to put something there because the Barfly space has lovely potential for a very nice beer garden,” he said. “Vegetation, trees, plants and shrubs would make it feel very pleasant.”

The new brewery is envisioned to open sometime in late spring.



Architectural Expressions By: E. Jordan

There is a NEW business in town. “Architectural Expressions” has moved to Downtown Champaign. Managing senior architect, Neil Strack, is the former president and later partner of Architectural Spectrum in Champaign for 34 years.

The Architectural Expressions office is located at the old train station at

116 N. Chestnut St., Suite 300, a one-time location for Architectural Spectrum. “Architectural Spectrum remains the architectural arm of the Devonshire Group, which acquired it in 1997, Strack said.”

“Architectural Expressions” provides design services for health care, commercial, industrial, retail, municipal, institu-

tional and residential projects. For your future endeavors visit “Architectural Expressions”, a new thriving business in Downtown Champaign.

For more information call : (217) 378-5300 or visit their website at www.aexllp.com

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Upcoming Festivals

Ebert Festival By: C. Loving

The Roger Ebert Film Festival, Ebertfest, has been held annually for the past ten years at the Virginia Theatre. Ebert, an acclaimed movie critique for the Chicago Sun-Times, was a University of Illinois graduate and Urbana native. He organizes the festival now with the College of Media at the University of Illinois. The festival, formerly called Roger Ebert's Overlooked Film Festival, includes movies that he finds particularly good but have not received much media attention. Before each screening Ebert makes a few comments regarding the film and following the film is shown, he, the filmmakers, or others connected with the film accept questions or a brief panel discussion.

Twelve to fourteen films are presented at each festival, opening with a single film on a Wednesday night and concluding with a single film the following Sunday. Some of the most famous participants have been Mario Van Peebles, Veronica Cartwright, Rufus Sewel, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, and many more. This year's festival will take place April 22nd through the 29th. A list of films will be available in March. For more information visit the website at: www.ebertfest.com.



Boneyard Arts Festival By: E. Jordan

The 7th Annual Boneyard Arts Festival presented by 40North/88 West the Champaign County Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council will be held April 16-19, 2009. This four day event will showcase the creativity of local artists and businesses throughout our community and neighboring communities. "Its goal is to bring together local artists and businesses for a special event promoting the art that lives here." The Boneyard Arts Festival is a "countywide" celebration that takes place in a wide variety of venues such as clubs, galleries, museums, ice cream shops, and real estate and features the works of hundreds of artists.

This year's festival has expanded to include Thursday. A different day will be designated for the festival's four districts, to "increase the impact for your Boneyard Arts Festival display, performance or literary event."

CDA encourages you engages to engage in this year's festivities and experience four days of art, music, dancing, poetry, and so much more.

For more information visit www.40north.org



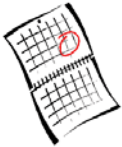
Artists Against Aids By: E. Jordan

The Greater Community Aids Project is hosting it's Seventeenth Annual Artists Against AIDS Exhibition and Benefit Show will run for four days, Friday, April 24 – Monday, April 27. The exhibition and fund-raising sale is the hallmark of the entire community's talents, diversity, and support in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

This exhibition is open to all artists who wish to sell their work in the spirit of a cooperative effort to raise funds for HIV/AIDS education and support services in the Champaign/Urbana area. All work that is exhibited is offered for sale, with a minimum of 50% of the asking price to be donated to the Greater Community AIDS Project. GCAP is a local non-profit United Way agency dedicated to educating the public about HIV/AIDS and providing support services for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Artists may retain up to one half of the proceeds from the sale of their work.

GCAP partners with other local groups and agencies that work with HIV/AIDS issues and supports Champaign House, a local transition shelter for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

For more information about GCAP and the projects they support, please call 351-2437.



2009 Downtown Champaign Special Events

January 24 "Casablanca" Virginia Theatre

February 21 Boneyard Arts Festival Gala, Illinois Terminal

March 11 Battle of the Bands, Virginia Theatre
March 12-15 LincolnFest 2009, Virginia Theatre
March 26-29 "Sweet Charity" – CUTC, Virginia Theatre

April 10 Eggstravaganza, West Side Park
April 10 Lunch with Peter Cottontail, Springer Center

April 11 Illinois Marathon Downtown
April 16-19 Boneyard Arts Festival Downtown
April 22-26 Roger Ebert Film Festival, Virginia Theatre
April 23-27 Artists Against Aids, Orpheum Children's Science Museum

May 8-10 Cinderella (Ballet), Virginia Theatre
May 16 Children's Building Fair, Orpheum Children's Science Museum
May 24 Parking Lot Bash, National City Lot

June 5 Eat to the Beat, West Side Park
June 7 Concert in the Park, West Side Park
June 13 Streetfest, Main Street
June 19 Taste of Champaign-Urbana, West Side Park

June 25-29 Les Miserables - CUTC, Virginia Theatre

July 3 Eat to the Beat, West Side Park
July 3 Fourth of July Bash, National City Lot
July 5 Concert in the Park, West Side Park
July 11 Streetfest, Walnut Street
July 11 Downtown Bicycle Grand Prix, Downtown
July 19 Concert in the Park, West Side Park
July 24-26 Gus Macker Basketball Tournament, Downtown
July 25 Parking Lot Bash, National City Lot

August 6 - 9 "Annie Get Your Gun" - CUTC, Virginia Theatre

August 7 Eat to the Beat, West Side Park
August 8 Streetfest, Neil Street
August 15 Downtown Festival of the Arts, Downtown

September 4 Eat to the Beat, West Side Park
September TBD Bag's Tournament, Downtown
September 25 Parking Lot Bash, National City Lot

October 22-25 "Jekyll and Hyde" - CUTC, Virginia Theatre

December 5 Downtown Parade of Lights, Downtown

Free Admission

Paid Admission

Free Viewing/Registration Required to Participate

Benefits of CDA Partnership

When your business joins the Champaign Downtown Association, you will receive numerous benefits. You will receive regular email updates from CDA about items of interest to downtown businesses and residents. You will receive a quarterly newsletter containing information about what is going on in downtown, including upcoming retail and special events. You will become part of a listserv to receive timely information about downtown issues and news. You will receive a window cling to display in your business to show your support of the CDA. You will receive a 10% discount on dues for each new partner you recruit to the CDA. Your business will be listed on the CDA's website. You will receive a CDA membership directory so you can easily contact your fellow partners. CDA will work as a liaison to the City of Champaign, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, the Champaign Park District, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and other entities to represent the interests of downtown Champaign businesses.

We want to hear from You!

Tell us what you think about the third issue of *Downtown Quarterly*.

Let us know about the current and emerging issues that are of interest to you.

Or, just drop us a line about what your organization is up to.

Contact us at:

Champaign Downtown Association

44 East Main Street

Suite 417

Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: 217.352.2400

mary@downtownchampaign.com

www.downtownchampaign.com

Get Involved!

As always, the CDA is looking for fun, energetic, civic-minded people to help plan and execute activities. Whether you are interested in serving on a committee or lending a hand at an event, we need you! Please fill out this form and return it to the **Champaign Downtown Association**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I am interested in:

___ **Becoming a CDA Partner**

___ **Becoming a CDA Sponsor**

___ **Becoming a Board Member**

___ **Serving on a Committee**

___ **Serving as a Volunteer**

Thank you for your interest in advertising in the Champaign Downtown Association's newsletter, *The Downtown Quarterly*. Individual ads can be bought, or you can purchase a space in each newsletter for the year. Each ad will be business card size.

Advertising Opportunities: (Mark One).

___ **One time advertisement --**
 \$20 (Members) \$25 (Non-Members)

___ **Full Year Advertisement --**
 \$80 (Members) \$100 (Non-Members)

Payment Options: (Mark One)

___ Check enclosed for amount due.

___ Please invoice for amount due.

Business: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please attach business card here:

Please complete this form and send to:

Champaign Downtown Association

44 East Main Street, Suite 417

Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 352-2400

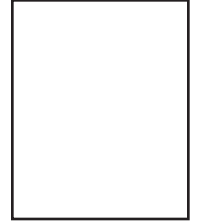
Fax: (217) 352-2422

mary@downtownchampaign.com

Call or e-mail with any questions.



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Suite 417
Champaign, IL 61820



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