

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN GRESHAM

Stroll • Shop • Dine • Enjoy

Historic Downtown
Gresham Business Assoc.
P.O. Box 2312
Gresham, OR 97030
(503) 665-5990

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May 2010

Main Street Update

In late 2008, the “Main Street Program” concept was presented to the public at GDDA’s Annual Meeting and a committee was formed that included both property owners and businesses owners to explore and research the Main Street Program further to determine if it was a good fit for Historic Downtown Gresham and the feasibility of implementing such a program. The work done by the original Main Street committee and GDDA’s Executive Director has prompted exciting conversations and further exploration which continues to occur today. The HDGBA and GDDA boards have created a joint task force which is meeting regularly with the goal of creating environments where multiple stakeholders can learn more about the Main Street Approach™ and ultimately help in determining if the program is the right fit for Gresham. To that end, we would like to invite you to participate in a one-day, in depth session which explains the four components of the program – Organization, Design, Economic Restructuring and Promotion – and gives examples of how over 2,200 communities nationwide have seen increased investment in their historic commercial districts.

The workshop scheduled for Wednesday, May 19th from 8:30 am – 5 pm at East Hill Church in Historic Downtown Gresham. You should have received a mailing with information regarding the schedule of events for the day and how to register. If you did not receive this mailing and are interested in attending, please call business association secretary, Lani Wild at 503-665-7800.

We appreciate your time and look forward to possibly having you join us on May 19th.

Sincerely,

Cari Floyd
President
HDGBA

Adam Klimek
President
GDDA

Calendar of Events

Business Association Meeting

Tue, May 4th 8:00am
Historical Society

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

Wed, May 5th 3-8pm
Rockwood Plaza del Sol
Cost: Free

Pub Talk

Thu, May 6th 5:15-7:00pm
4th Street Brewing
Cost: \$5.00

Mother & Daughter Tea & Fashion Show

Sat, May 8th
Center for The Arts Plaza
Cost: \$15/ea. \$25/pair

Facebook Class

Sat, May 17th 5:30-7:30pm
Portland Adventist Elem.
Cost: \$25 pre-reg. \$30 door
RSVP: Julie @ 665-1131

4th Annual Third Thursday!

The Historic Downtown Gresham Business Association (HDGBA) is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Third Thursday, with the kickoff for 2010 on Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Third Thursday was created with the goal of creating an 'open house' feeling in the businesses located in Historic Downtown Gresham and specifically on Main Avenue. The atmosphere is created by keeping approximately 20 businesses located on Main Avenue open later than typical on the Third Thursday of the month, May through October and having shop owners host local wineries, artists and musicians throughout the evening.

"Third Thursday brings both people who are familiar with Downtown Gresham and new people together to experience a night filled with fun and energy. The streets feel alive with music and excitement during the entire time. It's incredible!" says Cody Clark, business owner of Café Delirium located on the corner of 3rd and Main and chairperson of the volunteer committee tasked with coordinating the event.

The HDGBA's primary purpose is to create a positive image for Historic Downtown, promote and stimulate economic success, offer support and enrichment to its members and foster community partnerships. The HDGBA's membership includes approximately 80 businesses and friends of Historic Downtown. Please contact the association if you are interested in membership.

Free Wine – Art – Music – Gresham's Third Thursday!

WHO: Historic Downtown Gresham Business Association

WHAT: Historic Downtown Gresham's Third Thursday

WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 2010
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

WHERE: Streets of Historic Downtown Gresham
Main Avenue between 5th St and Powell Blvd

WHY: Why Not?!?!

COST: FREE!



Historic Downtown Gresham
third
thursday
music art wine

Mother & Daughter Tea and Fashion Show for a Cause

Mothers and Daughters can treat themselves to a special afternoon at the Center for the Arts Plaza having tea with each other as they enjoy a showing of the latest fashions from Elegantly Funky, one of Downtown Gresham's boutique shops. Proceeds from the event will go to Fight With Elegance, which supports Breast Cancer awareness, and the Center for the Arts Foundation. Ticket price is \$15.00 per person or \$25.00/per pair. The Center for the Arts Plaza is located at 401 NE 2nd Street in the heart of Historic Downtown Gresham. For more information or to purchase tickets please call (503) 665-7800. Also, please visit our website at www.greshamartsplaza.org.

Pledge to be GREAT in 2010

You may know about the GREAT Program through the City of Gresham. Many downtown businesses have this award displayed in their shops and restaurants.

The City Council has put forth a friendly challenge to the Gresham community to see if 200 businesses will make the "Pledge to be GREAT in 2010" to be greener in the workplace. Businesses large and small, local and corporate are encouraged to join, and will receive recognition pledging. This includes recognition on Facebook, the City's website and at an awards ceremony this fall.

Help us reach this goal! If 200 businesses Pledge to be GREAT, it means 10% of Gresham businesses will be working to green their operations. Download a pledge form at www.GreshamOregon.gov/recycling or call 503-618-2694.

A business does not have to decide which award to go for when taking the Pledge., but there are two ways to go. The blue GREAT Recycler is for businesses that recycle well, prevent waste, and use recycled content products. The green GREAT Businesses go above and beyond these actions by also conserving water, using energy efficiently, and preventing pollution in storm and waste water systems. Visit www.GreshamOregon.gov/recycling to see which businesses have pledged or are already certified.

Is your workplace or church interested in greening its operations? The GREAT Business program will work with you until year's end to become certified. Contact us for our free assistance and tools. Call 503-618-2694 or e-mail GREATBiz@GreshamOregon.gov.

SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Weekly Connections

Women in Business RT

Date: May 5th
Time: Noon - 1:30
Cost: No Charge- Must RSVP.

Lunch & Learn: Mercy Corps

Date: May 6th
Time: Noon-1:00pm
Cost: No Charge- Must RSVP.

Lunch & Learn: Employee vs. Independent Contractor

Date: May 27th
Time: Noon - 1pm
Cost: No Charge

Upcoming Trainings

- 5/12 Developing Financial Projections for Startups
- 5/19 Developing a Bookkeeping System for your Business
- 5/21 Oregon CCB License Training and Test Prep
- 5/25 QuickBooks Bootcamp 1
- 5/27 Going into Business: Start Smart

*Pre-registration is required.

For additional classes, visit www.mhcc.edu/pages/1097.asp

For more information or to register:
Call (503)491-7658
Email: bizcntr@mhcc.edu

Tri-Met Bus Rerouting

DO YOU THINK THE #9 BUS SHOULD MOVE OFF OF MAIN AVENUE AND ON TO HOOD AVENUE???

This question will be posed to business owners, property owners, residents and users of Downtown over the next few months. Many of you may have received notice from TriMet that a move was being discussed, with a decision deadline of April 11th. At the request of your Business Association, TriMet has put their efforts on hold so that GDDA and the City can partner in an effort to find out the effects such a move would have on all users of Downtown.

History

About one year ago, during a Business Association General Membership Meeting, the group discussed the potential of moving the line off of Main. Stated at that time, among other things, were concerns of 1) safety, such as buses not stopping properly at the stop sign at 2nd and Main, and 2) convenience, including how narrow Main Avenue is and whether it was appropriate to regularly have something as large as a bus coming down the street when it often crossed the double yellow lines. The group requested Megan Braunsten and Kerry Parmenter request more information be gathered about the possible move to their regular Economic Improvement Advisory Group meetings with City staff. They did, and the result was last summer the City invited TriMet, GDDA and HDGBA to do a walk around the Regional Center to discuss all TriMet issues, including the potential move of the #9 line. The result of the meeting was that TriMet and the City would create a public comment process to gather more data.

Fast forward to today and unfortunately the public comment process that was implemented didn't yield many results and unfortunately neither HDGBA or GDDA was included in the process. This topic was brought to April's Business Association meeting and from that discussion, the following actions are being taken:

1. TriMet has put their efforts on hold.
2. The City and GDDA have partnered to implement a more comprehensive public process. This will include an online survey they each of you will be asked to fill out, an impact survey of those actually riding the bus, as well as a final presentation of all data gathered at a Business Association meeting later this year.
3. Alarmed at the potential safety issues mentioned, TriMet has reviewed the bus stop at 2nd and Main and will be moving it closer to the stop sign.

Please watch your emails for further information regarding this topic. Should you have any questions before then, please contact Megan Braunsten with GDDA at either 503-665-3827 or meganb@gdda.org.

National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, which Gresham is officially celebrating for the first time. GRCTMA is working with the City of Gresham on Bike Month activities - please join us at one of the events around the Gresham Regional Center!

- Guided Bike Ride around Downtown Gresham, May 15 at 9:45 AM (ride starts at 10) at the Main City Park parking lot. The ride is about 8 miles long, and maps will be distributed at the beginning of the walk.
- Way to Go Fair, May 19, 11:30 to 1:30, Gresham City Hall Plaza (near the MAX stop) – take some time on your lunch break to learn about your great transportation options in Gresham.
- Bike to Work Day, May 21st
- Commuter Recharging Stations, 7-9 AM, Springwater Trail (Linneman Station and Main City Park) – stop by the stations on your morning bike commute and get free breakfast treats!
- Unveiling of Gresham’s new bike directional signage, Time TBD (SE Corner of Division and Main Ave) – see the City’s latest bike signs!
- Bike Commuting 101 Workshop, 12-1, Gresham City Hall (RSVP to 503-618-2321 or Jonathan.David@greshamoregon.gov) - learn how to get started with bike commuting.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration



Plaza del Sol in Rockwood will be holding their first annual Cinco de Mayo on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the **Plaza del Sol** located at 18709 SE Stark, Portland, OR (formerly the site of Fred Meyer). The event will begin at 3:00 pm and conclude at dusk (approximately 7:00 pm). Over 500 attendees are expected and will be a lot of fun.

The Cinco de Mayo fiesta will be a **free** community event open to everyone. The goal is to provide a family-friendly event that embraces the diversity and similarities of our many different cultures. Activities will include local musicians, singers, a DJ, folkloric dancers, storytelling, face painting and crafts for the kids, and food. Alcohol will not be permitted. Local food vendors will be selling authentic Mexican food. We hope you can join us for this fun event!

Try Walking

WALK & LEARN SERIES

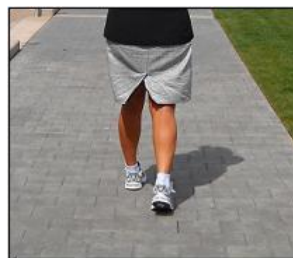
3rd Wednesday (May – Oct)
12:15 – 12:45pm

WEEKEND WALK SERIES

2ND Saturday (May – Oct)
10:30 – 11:30am

All events are **free** and open to the public. Full calendar and description of events at:

www.gresham.org/grctma





Tell us about yourself and your business:

Oregonians Credit Union is located at 247 E. Powell Blvd.

Debby Lutton, Branch Manager of the Gresham Branch has been at the Gresham location since March 2006. The branch staff and I are here to help the local area members with their financial business in an efficient and friendly manner.

OFCU: Oregonians Credit Union offers financial services, consumer loans, mortgage loans and small business loans to its 27,000+ member/owners. We exist to provide our members an opportunity to improve their economic well being.

How long have you been in business and how long has your business been in Downtown Gresham?

Mountain View Federal Credit Union

merged with Oregonians CU in 2005. Mountain View had been located in Downtown Gresham since the mid 70s. The roots of Oregonians Credit Union go back to 1936.

Is your business featuring any upcoming promotions, events, specials?

Now is a great time to borrow! Our rates start as low as 3.50% APR. Our Visa Credit Card recently made the Dean's List for fair and ethical credit cards on the consumer website, Credit Card Connection.

Why did you locate your business in Downtown Gresham?

The charter for Mt View Credit Union was Gresham and the surrounding East County towns. Downtown Gresham provided the best location then and still does today for Oregonians CU.

What makes Downtown Gresham special?

It has a quaint, friendly neighborhood atmosphere. The local establishments are well diversified.

What's your involvement with the Business Association?

This business association is a new connection to the community for the credit union and we look forward to our future involvement.

Anything you'd like to add?

If any downtown businesses would like to offer credit union membership services to their employees, please contact me. There are many benefits to take advantage of by being a member of a credit union.



KMZE Finds a New Home in Downtown Gresham

KZME Radio is happy to announce the new location of its studios in downtown Gresham. The radio station will occupy a storefront space at Third Central, located at 134 NW 3rd Street, Suite B in July 2010. Dwight Unti, president of Tokola Properties, the owner of the site, shares that the company is extremely pleased and excited to have KZME as a new occupant at the location. "We have been a strong supporter of the arts in Gresham and see the addition of KZME to downtown as creating an exciting new way to help connect the community to local arts and culture in the area", says Unti. KZME is a new radio station that is coming to the Portland metro area in 2010 and it will be dedicated to airing local music, east county public affairs and supporting local art and culture. More information about the station can be found at www.kzme.fm.