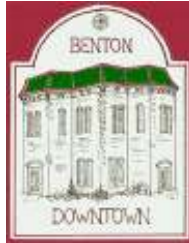


DOWNTOWN
BENTON, INC



BENTON

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2009

DBI FOCUS ON

MISSION STATEMENT

TO REVITALIZE THE DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF HISTORIC BENTON, ILLINOIS AND IN SO DOING:

- Stimulate economic growth and revitalization
- Foster a spirit of community teamwork
- Promote community pride
- Preserve our historic inheritance
- Emphasize Benton's uniqueness
- Market Benton as a great place to visit, shop, play, and live.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Kraft
 Mike Wyant
 Kathy Story
 Bill Bonan II
 Pam Kerley
 Alan Odum
 Brad Pioveson
 Roberta Kearney

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sharon Pioveson

Benton Focus is produced by:

Downtown Benton, Inc.
202 Public Square
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 439-6105

THE BUZZ

Coffee Shop • Bookstore
Full Service Deli • Internet Cafe

601 Public Square
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 438-2899
Lee Medders—Owner

Our **Focus on Business** for this issue is The Buzz; one of the unique shops on the Square in Benton. Whether you are looking to relax with a cappuccino and dessert, take a look at the selection of local books available, or come in to meet friends for a great lunch you will find it at The Buzz.

Owner Lee Medders and husband Steve purchased The Buzz in May 2008.

DBI - How did you get started in this business?

Lee - We moved here from St. Louis in July 2006 and I was looking for a new career and this seemed to be the right thing at



the right time. My husband Steve, knew for the previous owner from another business. We told her if she ever wanted to sell to let us know.

DBI - Do you plan to expand or offer new services?

Lee - I would like to do more displays of local artists and would like to expand into a unique gift line. Another location is also a consideration.

DBI - What do you offer now that people may not realize?

Lee - We do catering for businesses and events and are available to host bridal or baby show-

ers, meetings, clubs, professional groups etc. We can also do carry out for meetings or individuals.

DBI - What changes would you like to see in Downtown Benton's future?

Lee - More events to bring people to the downtown business district. Perhaps a movie night during the summer at Capital Park. The new Antique Car Show is a good start. The Antique Street Fair, the Fall Festival, and the Downtown Christmas events are great ways to promote the downtown businesses.



Santa takes time to pose with the gang from The Buzz while visiting Benton area children

2009 MASTER WORK PLAN

This years work plan for Downtown Benton, Inc. strives to help the revitalization of our downtown community, to attract tourists and visitors to our downtown area and make Benton a great place to shop, live, and play.

This years plan includes:

- Create Landscape Design for Courthouse Lawn
- Landscape Jail Museum Parking Lot

- Erect Directional Signage in Jail Museum Parking Lot
- Provide Trash receptacles for Jail Museum Parking Lot
- Create Antique Car Show Event
- Sponsor Antique Street Fair
- Host Spring Floral Class
- Sponsor Concerts In Capital Park
- Create Banners for the Square
- Sponsor Cruise Nights
- Host Fall Festival

- Increase 2009 Christmas Events
- Increase Downtown Partners by 10%
- Increase Volunteers by 20%
- Sponsor Fall Downtown Chili Cook-off

A New Illinois Main Street Community



1ST ANNUAL ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

May 23, 2008

Plans are well underway for an exciting new event this year being planned by Downtown Benton, Inc, Promotions Committee.

An antique car show is being planned with pre 1950's cars. The car show will be held in the parking lot next to the Franklin County Garage Museum. Car owners and guests are encouraged to dress in costume reflecting the period of their auto.

A antique car parts swap meet, food vendors, and twilight parade are some of the activities being planned. Participants can enjoy a spring day outside viewing the cars and speaking with the owners, visiting the Franklin County Garage Museum or the Franklin County Jail Museum. Great food will be available from our food vendors and our downtown restaurants will be open and ready to host hungry visitors. In addition to viewing great old cars, having a great meal, our

visitors might even find a hidden treasure or two shopping in our downtown antique stores.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event please contact the DBI office at 439-6105



Enjoy pre-1950's Antique Cars At This Years 1st Annual Antique Car Show



SPRING MAKE IT TAKE IT CLASS

Due to the great success of the Holiday Wreath Class, Downtown Benton, Inc's Organization Committee is busy planning a Spring Centerpiece Make It Take It Class.

The class will be offered on Monday, March 30, 2009 at the DBI office on the Square. Instructor Nancy Odom has created a wonderful floral spring centerpiece that can be the highlight of your Easter

holiday table setting. Cost for this class is only \$20.00 and all materials and supplies will be provided.

Master your talents and Join us to learn the basics of making a floral centerpiece for your home. The techniques learned in making the spring design can be used to make any number of arrangements for your home or for gifts.

Monday, March 30th

6:30 pm

**DBI Office
202 Public Square Benton
(Next to Peoples National Bank)**

**Cost: \$20.00
Includes all materials and supplies**

**Information or to register
439-6105 OR 439-9753**



Spring Centerpiece Design for March 30th Make It Take It Class

NEW PARTNER SCOREBOARD

The Buzz

601 Public Square
Coffee Shop • Bookstore
Full Service Deli • Internet Cafe
(618) 438-2899

Memories Antiques and Collectables

1104 Public Square
Antique • Collectibles
(618) 439-4650

All Stars-N-Stitches

418 East Main Street
Custom Sportswear • Embroidery
Signs • Flags • Banners
Awards • Medals • Trophies
(618) 435-5555

Hidden Treasures Antiques

1101 Public Square
Antique Mall • Consignment
(618) 435-6533

Dead-Eye Printing

120 East Main Street
Custom Printing • Flyers • Posters
Brochures • Wedding Invitations
(618) 439-4200



DOWNTOWN BENTON, INC OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED



September 28, 2008

Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn visited Benton and officially recognized Benton as an Illinois Main Street Community. Downtown Benton, Inc. Vice President Mike

Wyant III, State Senator Gary Forby, Downtown Benton, Inc Executive Director, Sharon Pioveson and Lt. Governor Pat Quinn view the unique Main Street sign presented to DBI.

One of the new Illinois Main Street Community signs will be posted on each highway leading into Benton.

Illinois Main Street is an economic development program based on historic preservation. This approach advocates a return to community self-reliance and rebuilding of commercial assets: unique archi-

ture, personal service, local ownership and a sense of community.

Each Main Street Program is run by a nonprofit association with a professional manager and a volunteer board of directors. Volunteers come from all areas of the community, both public and private to work to manage their commercial district like a business.

**A very special
"Thank You"**

**Benton Town &
Country Garden
Club**

*For their design,
creativity and hard
work to create the
beautiful landscape
and flowers in
Malkovich Park and
in the planters all
around the square
last year.*



HOLIDAY WREATH CLASS AT DBI OFFICE



To kick off the 2008 Holiday Season, Downtown Benton, Inc sponsored a "Make It - Take It" Holiday

Wreath Class.

Participants learned the art of making a festive holiday wreath for their home. All materials were provided thanks to our many sponsors. Instructor Nancy Odom donated her time help make the event a success. Participants said they enjoyed the evening with friends and left with a festive wreath that could be used for their home or as a gift.

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors

- Compass Group North America
- Roses Flower Shop
- Dollar General Store
- Chartwells Dining Services at SIU



STORY TIME WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 13th Santa returned to Benton to visit with area children during DBI sponsored "Story Time with Santa".

Alan Odom, Organization Chair said that area children were invited to visit with Santa, enjoy homemade cookies and hot chocolate while visiting with Santa at The Buzz.

After visiting and taking photos with Santa the children were treated to a story time with Santa who read three Christmas stories.

A very special treat was arranged for the children to have a free ride in one of Benton's Fire Engines with Santa.

Special Thanks To

- Lee Medders and the Staff at The Buzz
- Benton Fire Department
- Chartwells Dining Services at SIU
- DBI Volunteers



DBI Volunteers Visit with Santa Claus. L to R Brad Benjamin, Kathy Story, Santa, Sharon Pioveson, Sara Van Fossen, Diane Overturf, Bard Johnson



Downtown Benton, Inc

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Benton, Illinois 62812

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Fax: 618-435-2149

E-mail: downtownbentoninc@verizon.net

**Building Onto A Good Thing
One Brick At A Time!**

Want To Be Remembered? Preserve Your Name In History!

Downtown Benton, Inc. and the City of Benton offer you the opportunity to preserve your name in history. By purchasing a paving brick or stone engraved with your name or the names of those whom you wish to be remembered. Your brick or stone will be installed at Benton's Capital Park, located on te Public Square. All Proceeds will be used to fund Capital Park and to support Downtown Benton, Inc. A not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to revitalize downtown Benton.

Download and complete a **Paving Brick Form** from our website.

www.downtownbenton.org



We're On The Web
www.downtownbenton.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP -

THANK YOU

For Supporting Downtown Benton, Inc and your Community by participating in our events.

Our volunteers work hard for our community by promoting community pride, fostering a spirit of community teamwork, preserving our historic district, promoting Benton's uniqueness, and marketing Benton as a **GREAT** place to live, shop, visit, and play for the benefit of our community.

Help Make Us A Better Community!

VOLUNTEER TODAY

Let us know if you would be interested in supporting your community during one of our events!

Make It Take It
Spring Centerpiece Class
March 30th

Antique Car Show
May 23rd

Antique Street Fair
Capital Park Concert Series

Cruise Nights

Fall Festival

Chili Cook Off

Downtown Christmas Events

