

November 2010

LaPorte Business Improvement District (BID)

Fall Newsletter

801 Michigan Ave. La Porte, IN 46350

219-362-8260

Advisor: Mary Jane Thomas-City Planner

BID Secretary: Laura Gropp

Tree lights and Christmas wreathes are going up in late November.

Thanks, Boy Scouts and Street Department!

BID BOARD MEMBERS

President: Fran Milo- Suds on State Laundromat

Vice President: Brad Adam-sky- Newby Lewis Kaminski Law Firm

Treasurer: John Spiggle- Parkison & Hinton CPAs

Lee Brady-LaPorte Savings

Thaddeus Cutler-Thaddeus C Art Gallery

Sharon Goodman-Studio G Photo

Mike Riehle-PNC Bank

Mike Seitz-Chamber of Commerce

Dave Schmitt-A.J.Schmitt Jewelers

Planter Highlights

The BID wants to thank all those who help beautify downtown La Porte by your sponsorship of planters. It is the work of weeding, cleaning, and pruning that is so vital to this project. We had many comments about how beautiful the planters were this year, so that is always gratifying to everyone involved.



Our thanks to Bill Campbell and Perennials Galore for the actual planting of the plants this last June. The

BID Board has approved a Fall project of the cutting down of some of the large ornamental crab trees that have now overwhelmed about 28 planters. The root system of these large trees is an endangerment to the planter structure itself, so this is preventative maintenance. At the same time, we will be putting more sterile top soil in the planters to raise the level as much as possible so that plants will be more visible. We will not be covering sprinkler heads! Some of the large perennial grasses will also be moved out. There will be more annuals planted next year, so there is no need to fear that

the planters will look empty. Additionally, it is hoped that the budget will allow for a significant bulb planting next fall so as to increase the amount of spring plants that will bloom in April and May.

The Downtown owes a debt of gratitude to Marcia Morris and her planter ladies who so diligently tend the planters in the absence of vigilant individual planter sponsors. High Five, Ladies! If you see them out and about this next year, it would be great to just give them a personal thank-you as well. We couldn't do this without them!

Practical and cost-effective ideas for maintenance of the BID benches and trash receptacles are under consideration.

It's Almost Snow-time.....

The BID Board has approved a 2010-2011 Contract with Mofield and Associates (Dale Mofield) to once again remove the sidewalk snow when winter befalls us. This year, Mofield is aware that there is a desire to have as much of the sidewalk snow removed as possible, but still try not to break the bank.

Since the BID Board is the watchdog for the BID taxes and the expenditure of them, you should be pleased to know that we are very watchful of every dollar that is spent, so that we get the best results for the best price. Thaddeus Cutler of Thaddeus C Art Gallery is the snow liaison for the BID

with Mofield. Since Thaddeus lives in the BID, this should be an excellent person for the job! He will be the "eyes" of the BID as we attempt to make good judgment calls on practical snow removal on a day to day, weather event to weather event basis. Thanks, Thaddeus!

Due to the cost of snow removal, it is impossible to keep the sidewalks absolutely snow free at all times. We are grateful for those business owners who assist in between plowing with individual shoveling and sidewalk sweeping. It just makes our commercial downtown safer and more pedestrian friendly. We all understand that snow removal is a major challenge in La Porte, IN. If we work together, we can get the job done!

SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE