

Inside Main Street

News and information on Bastrop's Main Street Program May 26, 2010

Downtown plaza idea presented to City Council

Bastrop Main Street Advisory Board members Jane Hunt, Dan Hays-Clark and Steve Dewire presented to City Council on May 4 the Board's vision for establishing a Central Plaza in the downtown business district. The vision encompasses transforming what has long been a vacant space at 923 Main Street into an enjoyable green space, a respite for shoppers and visitors, complete with restrooms, and a venue for downtown events.

While members of the Council applauded the concept, they agreed that other possible uses for the site, including commercial development, should be explored as well. The Council is expected to convene a public hearing at some later date to receive proposals.

The BMSP Advisory Board sees the Plaza as significantly enhancing the preservation and restoration of an economically revitalized downtown business district and serving as a focal point for both Main Street and the larger Main Street Program area. Along with the improvements to Chestnut Street, the Plaza would boost Bastrop's efforts to make the Chestnut and Main Street corridor significantly more pedestrian friendly.

Further information on the BMSP proposal is available at www.cityofbastrop.org/departments/main_street/docs/INSIDE_MAIN_STREET_April_2010.pdf.

'Alley B' infrastructure improvements authorized

On April 27, a split City Council approved undertaking a substantial utility makeover for "Alley B"—running from Chestnut Street to Pine Street.

The project, proposed and unanimously approved by the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors on March 29, entails improving water and waste water services and electric services to the west side of Main Street and the alleyway behind it.

Project costs, inclusive of engineering, are estimated to run \$147,000 for water and waste water and \$250,000 for electrical improvements. The entire cost would be funded by BEDC from revenues generated by the one-half cent sales tax specifically dedicated to economic development, a tax authorized by voters in 1995.

Dissenting Council members questioned whether the project should be given priority and was of general benefit beyond serving a property owner currently undertaking a substantial rehabilitation of the historic Burch building, on the northeast corner of Alley B and Chestnut. The owner, KKG Bastrop Investments, also owns the historic Hayne Building on the northwest corner.

New businesses open in the Main Street Program area

The roster of new businesses in the 65-block Main Street Program Area along Main Street and Chestnut from Highway 71 to Texas 95 continues to grow:

- **Pies Galore & More** features “southern recipe pies made fresh”, code for a quintessential pecan pie, cream pies with mile high meringues, classic fruit pies and wonderful cookies. Initially opening earlier this year as a “to the trade” establishment, Pies Galore now sells directly to the public as well. At 1110 Main (Suite B); Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, visit www.piesgaloreandmore.com or contact owners/operators Judy and Amber Chandler at (512) 308-0400.
- **Frontier Bank of Texas** has opened its Bastrop location, at 1500 Chestnut. Lobby hours and drive-through hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. Drive-through service is also provided on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. For further information, visit www.frontierbankoftexas.com or call (512) 303-5000.
- **Telling Your Story** has added another chapter to the book. Photographer Jane Hunt’s photography business (that includes creating bound photographic studies) reopened in April in the Bridges Building, at 920 Main. The business got its start in the R.A. Greene Mercantile “business incubator” at 1022 Main. For more information, contact Jane at (512) 581-2712.
- **Jo Castillo Art Studio and Gallery** has opened at 1009 Main Street. The gallery will feature Jo’s pastels, oils and acrylics as well as jewelry and watercolors by fellow local artist Judy Hawes. For further information about hours, classes and the collection, visit www.jocastilloart.com or call the Studio at (512) 308-9791.
- **PureLight Center**—yoga, massage, PureKids (nurturing children and making movement fun for kids) and other services and classes—has opened at 801 Pecan (across from the Courthouse Annex. For more info call RamRattan Grace at (512) 718-4882.
- The **Law Office of Michael Baumer** has opened at 702 Chestnut, Suite 201. Baumer and associate Sarah McHaney practice bankruptcy law. Further information is available at www.baumerlaw.com or at (888) 376-8708.

Juneteenth celebration ramps up

Bastrop’s 2010 Juneteenth observance and celebration—marking the arrival in Galveston on June 19, 1865, of Major General Gordon Granger with news that the Civil War was over and that the enslaved were now free. This year’s commemoration promises to be every bit as solemn, joyful and memorable as in years passed.

The Bastrop Juneteenth Committee has constructed a schedule similar to years past, but with one key exception: the traditional Saturday evening dance and social moves indoors from Main Street this year to the Lumberyard, 1109 Main.

- The Juneteenth observance begins Thursday, June 17 with a program honoring African American pastors of Bastrop County and their congregations, at the historic Kerr Community

Center (at Walnut and Martin Luther King Streets). The program runs from 7 to 9 p.m.; music and food will be provided.

- On Friday, the traditional Family and Friends Night at Kerr Community Park will feature gospel music and food vendors. The program gets underway at 6 p.m. and concludes at 8 p.m.
- Concurrently on Friday night, former students of Emile High School will meet at the Kerr Community Center for a reception, from 6 to 8 p.m. For further information, contact Reunion President Linda Greene at 308-1048 or Treasurer Cladie Johnson Haywood at 321-3868.
- Saturday morning dawns bright and early with the Blue Flame Cruisers' Annual Juneteenth Car and Motorcycle Show on the Chestnut Square parking lot, 1600 Chestnut. Entry registration, at \$20 per vehicle, runs from 8 a.m. to noon; the show runs from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is free to the public. The Top 25 exhibitors will be recognized as will "best in class" in cars, trucks and motorcycles. Prizes will also be given for the "kid's choice and Juneteenth Committee pick. For more information on the Car and Motorcycle Show, contact: Jerome Jenkins at (512) 577-0706, Mark Peterson at (512) 438-9484 or email blueflamecruisers@gmail.com.

The observance culminates Saturday with the Grand Parade from Fisherman's Park to the Kerr Community Center and Park. Registration begins at 8 a.m. in Fisherman's Park; the parade steps off at 10 a.m. and makes its way down Main Street on its way to the Kerr Center. The parade is free and open to all who wish to sign up and participate; applications are available at www.bastropchamber.com (under the "events" section). The parade will be followed by an Emancipation Program in the gazebo at Kerr Community Park. The program includes addresses by local and county officials and musical tributes. Gospel singers and entertainment from throughout the county will follow the formal program and run until 6 p.m. From there, it's on to the Lumberyard for the 8 p.m. social and dance.

For more information about the celebration, contact T. C. Clemons at (512) 736-8342.

Warm night, sunny days mean...tomatoes!

Saturday, June 18, the Bastrop 1832 Farmers Market, will celebrate all things tomato...with cooking demonstrations, recipes, tomato tastings and more.

Located at 1302 Chestnut, the fest begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. For further information, email dololeeper@wildblue.net or call (512) 360-4502.

New projects/grants in the pipeline

Private investment continues to flow into the Main Street Program area with five projects receiving some financial lift from the Bastrop Main Street Program/Bastrop Economic Development Corporation rehabilitation/renovation/restoration grants.

The largest, a \$25,000 "Megagrant", was awarded to Attorney Tina Tiner Zapalac for a major renovation and landscaping of her offices at 508 Pecan. The overall project cost is expected to exceed \$100,000. The BEDC Board approved the megagrant on April 19; City Council subsequently ratified the grant on May 11.

Bastrop Copier was awarded a \$7500 grant to stabilize an exterior wall. The grant was approved by the BEDC Board on April 19 and the City Council on May 11.

On April 19, the BEDC Board approved \$5,000 Façade Grants for Joe Grady Tuck Law Office as 906 Main and Apothecary's Hall Antiques at 805 Main. On May 17, the BEDC Board also approved a \$5,000 Façade Grant for Lock Drug, 1003 Main.

Check out *The Medallion*....

Texas Historical Commission's bimonthly news and feature magazine for good info about historical preservation initiatives across Texas—including, in the May/June issue, an article about Bastrop's recent designation as a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for History Preservation.

Current and previous issues of *The Medallion* are available on line on the THC website (visit www.thc.state.tx.us/medallionmagdefault.shtm). A hardcopy subscription is yours for the asking, at the same site.

And prepare to check out OUR medallions!

In just a few short weeks, the City's work on improving infrastructure (and the appearance) of Chestnut Street will wrap up...with the unveiling of the 41 medallions to be inset in the sidewalks from Main east to the railroad tracks. Recesses were built into the sidewalks to accommodate these insets.

The medallions will be two-foot-wide bronze castings by Deep In the Heart Art Foundry from the designs of Foundry owner Clint Howard. An "El Camino Real De Los Tejas" medallion—two feet in diameter—will be inset at each corner of intersections along Chestnut—from Main through Haysel (and ultimately to SH 95 at some later point). Each medallion features a large star with the letters T-E-X-A-S on the points and "Bastrop, established 1832" within the star. Arcing atop the star will be "El Camino Real De Los Tejas"; at the bottom will be "Old San Antonio Road".

Additional medallions—each unique and depicting some aspect of Bastrop's history—will be inset in sidewalks on either side of Chestnut Street to create a historical walkway. These medallions will be of the same size and replicate the "El Camino Real De Los Tejas" and "Old San Antonio Road" display of the street corner medallions; historical images will replace the star for these medallions.

Look for the announcement of a public event unveiling the medallions!

The door is always open...

Bastrop Main Street Program volunteers and other members of the public are welcome to

attend any Committee and Advisory Board meeting in which they have an interest. Holidays and scheduling conflicts among participants may prompt changes in meeting, time and place; please check with Nancy Wood at Mainstreet@cityofbastrop.org for updated information. The calendar thus far includes:

June 7	BMSP Advisory Board meeting, 6 p.m. place to be determined
June 9	Economic Restructuring Committee, 5:15 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room
June 17	Design Committee, 5 p.m. in City Hall
June 21	Promotions Committee, 5:30 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room
June 30	Organization Committee, noon in the Chamber Conference Room
July (?)	BMSP Advisory Board meeting, date/time/place to be determined
July 14	Economic Restructuring Committee, 5:15 p.m. in Chamber Conference Room
July 15	Design Committee, 5 p.m. in City Hall
July 19	Promotions Committee, 5:30 p.m. in Chamber Conference Room
July 28	Organization Committee, noon in the Chamber Conference Room

For information about upcoming community activities, consult the events calendars at www.bastropchamber.com and www.visitbastrop.org. Advance stories on upcoming events also may be posted at <http://bastropadvertiser.com/category/events>.

Inside Main Street is an electronic newsletter to keep Bastrop Main Street Program participants “in the loop” on program developments, the work of its four standing committees (Promotions, Economic Restructuring, Design and Organization) and the activities of the Advisory Board. Produced monthly (except December), ***Inside Main Street*** is compiled and edited by Dick Smith on behalf of the Organization Committee and the Advisory Board. **Please share this newsletter with others who have an interest in learning how Bastrop’s Main Street Program is making a difference.**

Feedback and suggestions welcomed! Contact Dick at soyrps@gmail.com or Nancy Wood at Mainstreet@cityofbastrop.org
