

your downtown

Your Special Improvement District Update
from the Downtown Dayton Partnership

Fall 2009

Event Connection Fall 2009

First Friday

Throughout Downtown
September 4 & October 2

Urban Nights

Throughout Downtown
September 11

Taste of the Miami Valley

RiverScape MetroPark
September 11

Dayton Greek Festival

Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church
September 11-13

Hispanic Festival

RiverScape MetroPark
September 19

Mykee Fowlin:

Dayton Is Not Depressed— We're Alive and Kickin'!

Schuster Center
September 24

Oktoberfest

Dayton Art Institute
September 26-27

Ghost & Goblin 5K Run & Walk

RiverScape MetroPark
October 27

For a complete list of events
happening in Downtown
Dayton, visit
www.downtowndayton.org



Wright Stop Plaza Improves Transit Services, Addresses Community Concerns

It really looks great—and it's packed with new technology and lots of functional design too. But would you believe that a new transit center can help fix long-standing issues throughout downtown as well?

That's the goal—one of them, anyway—of the **Greater Dayton RTA's** new **Wright Stop Plaza**.

The new plaza, with its platform stretching between Main and Jefferson Streets, provides one central, convenient downtown transit center for RTA bus departures and arrivals. Customers will find a safer, more efficient and attractive environment for bus riding, along with impressive amenities to meet their needs. New technology features include informational



kiosks and easy-to-read digital signage with real-time bus arrival and departure displays. The

sheltered waiting area features architectural "rooms without walls" that define well-lit platform sections, full accessibility for customers with disabilities, Wi-Fi accessibility and climate control for winter conditions.

RTA estimates that 1,150 buses will travel through Wright Stop Plaza over each 21-hour operating day, so precise logistics and scheduling are essential to its successful operation. But the center's design plays a major role in orchestrating these logistics as well—ten bus bays are designed so that any one bus can operate independently from all other buses at any given time.

The opening of Wright Stop Plaza creates a much-improved transit experience for Greater

Dayton RTA customers, providing them with a single, convenient location to catch their buses or arrive downtown from one



of the 19 surrounding communities served by RTA. The enhanced efficiency, safety and aesthetics, along with customer service support from trained Transit Ambassadors are welcome additions for downtown bus riders and business commuters. But that's only *part* of the plan...

Wright Stop Plaza is also part of a larger strategy to make some positive changes throughout downtown Dayton and address some of the long-held concerns regarding our downtown streets. A major goal achieved by the new plaza is the removal of bus line-ups and bus stops from Main Street, relieving traffic and pedestrian congestion at Third and Main. These buses will now be boarded at the transit center, allowing for better policing and security and returning curb space to the city for other uses. "The new transit center is the final element of RTA's master plan to enhance and improve the quality of transit services downtown while addressing long-standing community concerns," says Executive Director Mark Donaghy. "We are pleased to be making the dream our new reality."

Wright Stop Plaza's passenger waiting area will be open from 5 a.m.-12:30 a.m., with concourse hours from 7 a.m.-11:30 p.m. For more information, call (937) 425-8400 or visit greaterdaytonrta.org.



**DOWNTOWN DAYTON
ROADWAY
IMPROVEMENTS**

The Main Street reconstruction project is running nearly two months ahead of schedule! Keep up to date on this and other downtown roadway improvements at downtowndayton.org.

L.E.T.T.E.R from the President

Throughout the year, we've been telling you about a bold, unified plan being developed by city leaders and the business community for the region's center city. Called A Greater Downtown Dayton Plan, this blueprint for the future of Dayton's urban core has been evolving during a collaborative process and with considerable public input to form strategic, results-oriented initiatives and recommendations. This fall, we'll begin sharing some of these ideas with the public by offering ways to learn about progress made to date, hear about some of the draft recommendations and even get involved to help shape the Plan's direction.



Sandy Gudorf,
DDP President

One of those opportunities will be the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan Preview at Urban Nights on Sept. 11. At this event, representatives from the numerous development projects related to the Plan will showcase what they've been working on, giving the public a "sneak peek" at what this plan for Dayton might include. Maps, renderings, photos and more will help visually tell the story of Greater Downtown's future.

Then, in early October, the Downtown Dayton Partnership and the City of Dayton will host several open design studios. At these sessions, the public will learn more about the numerous draft Plan recommendations. Each session will include not only a presentation and group discussion, but also a hands-on opportunity for participants to give their input. This input will be evaluated and folded into the next draft of the Plan, scheduled to be released in November.

Look inside this issue for a list of dates for the Plan preview and open studios, and remember to visit downtowndayton.org for more details about the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan. I'm excited about the future of our center city, and encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to help shape it.

Sandra K. Gudorf

Sandra K. Gudorf
President, Downtown Dayton Partnership

new on the scene



WSU GROUP GETS DOWNTOWN OFFICE SPACE

The Canal North building at 6 S. Patterson Blvd. is set to be the new office space for **Wright State University's Consumer Advocacy Model**, or "CAM." CAM is a program offered by Wright State Physicians as a community mental health center that provides outpatient services. CAM is a clinical component of the **Boonshoft School of Medicine's** Center for Intervention, Treatment and Addictions Research and the Substance Abuse Resources and Disabilities Issues Program. The new downtown space offers on-site employee parking and proximity to the bus line for CAM's customers—two essential priorities for the program. Learn more about Wright State University's CAM program at <http://med.wright.edu/citar/sardi/cam/>.



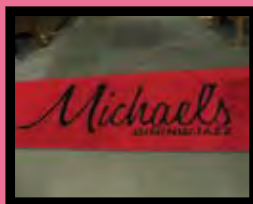
CARMEN'S DELI OPENS IN FIFTH THIRD CENTER

The former Swisher's Too space in the Fifth Third Center lobby is now home to **Carmen's Deli**, a new business open weekdays from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Owners Haitham Imam and his wife Carmen (for whom the deli is named) celebrated their grand opening in August with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Mayor McLin. Their extensive menu includes a wide variety of fresh salads, wraps, soups, sandwiches, grilled items and other options that feature traditional American fare as well as several Mediterranean influences. The deli's address is 110 N. Main St., but it actually faces Second St. across from the Kettering Tower. For more information, call Carmen's Deli at (937) 610-9999.



ENVOY MORTGAGE COMING TO BEERMAN BUILDING

Envoy Mortgage, a mortgage bank formerly known as First Houston Mortgage, Ltd., plans an early September move into the Beerman Building at 11 W. Monument Ave. Envoy provides services for the entire loan process from the initial application through delivery into the secondary market, including underwriting, closing, funding, shipping, and processing. For more company details, visit envoymortgage.com.



MICHAEL'S BRINGS FINE DINING, GREAT MUSIC TO KETTERING TOWER

Since opening this summer, **Michael's Dining & Jazz** in the Kettering Tower lobby has quickly become the place to be! In addition to the popular Sunday brunch and an great lunch menu, owner Michael Perry recently added weekday happy hours with live jazz and a different drink special each day. Michael's plans to have a ribbon cutting ceremony in early September to celebrate their grand opening. For more information, call (937) 331-9188.



DAYTON THEATRE GUILD OPENS SEASON IN NEW LOCATION

The **Dayton Theatre Guild** called many different locations "home" during its first years in the 1940s and has been located in a converted postal substation on Salem Avenue since 1963. But on August 28 they opened Christopher Hampton's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* in their new space at 430 Wayne Ave. in the former Dayton Gym Club. The Guild is always looking for newcomers, regardless of theater experience. To learn more about the Dayton Theatre Guild's upcoming season or for audition details, visit daytontheatreguild.org or call (937) 278-5993.



Dayton Campus Connect Goes Back to School for its Sophomore Year

With all the recent talk about Dayton's future and the need to hold on to our creative class of young professionals, you might be glad to know that someone is working on that... several "someones," in fact.



Last year, the **Downtown Dayton Partnership** and a group of community partners established the **Dayton Campus Connect** initiative to engage area college students in our community and extend their college experience beyond the campus itself, encouraging them to take advantage of all that downtown Dayton has to offer. The program aims to introduce students to downtown amenities and options for entertainment, dining, arts, culture and services that will bring them downtown now, during their college years, to boost business and attendance

for downtown organizations.

But the ultimate goal is to create lasting community ties that will build a stronger desire to stay in the area after graduation and play a vital role in Dayton's future. After all, our young, creative talent pool is critical to the region's economic success, and competition from other metropolitan areas to attract that talent is stiff.

Many different initiatives will make up year two of the Dayton Campus Connect program, from planned events and things for students to do, to internship and job information, outreach efforts and much more. The year kicks off with **Welcome Fest**, a free festival featuring live bands and other entertainment, giveaways, fun activities and more, sponsored by **National City Bank** (now a part of **PNC**) and held at RiverScape MetroPark on September 24 from 6-9 p.m. Plenty of information about Welcome Fest and other Campus Connect initiatives can be found at daytoncampusconnect.com.

One way your organization can become directly involved (and reach more than 70,000 area college students!) is to participate in our **Student Discount Program**. Participating businesses offer discounts to college students who present their student IDs throughout the school year. If you are interested in participating in the Student Discount Program, please call (937) 224-1518.

Another opportunity to get involved—and a new component of the program this year—is the recently launched **DaytonInternships.com**. This new site from the **Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce** aims to provide a comprehensive listing of area internship opportunities for students, and connect area businesses with talented interns. Visit the site and post your internships for free!

Dayton Campus Connect is sponsored by the **Downtown Dayton Partnership** and **SOCHÉ**. Its team of community partners includes the **City of Dayton**, **Montgomery County**, **Five Rivers MetroParks**, **Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce**, **Culture Works**, the **Victoria Theatre Association**, **Greater Dayton RTA**, the **Dayton Art Institute**, **CityWide Development Corporation** and **Cityfolk**.

Committee Seeks to Revitalize One of Dayton's Oldest Parks

Through grants and fundraising, the **Friends of Cooper Park** hope to see it become a more desirable green space for downtown residents, a safe place for children and a future entertainment venue for visitors. The committee is working with the Dayton Police Department to increase lighting in the park, along with adding signage to reduce crime. They have also scheduled regular trash and litter pick-ups, sanitation of the playground equipment and cleaning of the park's sculpture. In addition, the park has already seen some much-needed tree-trimming, thanks to the City of Dayton. The Friends of Cooper Park are currently seeking volunteers in the fields of grant writing, landscape architecture and various other positions to help with the revitalization effort. If you or someone you know has a vested interest in renewing Cooper Park and would like to volunteer, you can email Shannon Pote at shannon@resconnex.com.



Be Part of the Plan!

Don't miss these upcoming opportunities to learn more about the **Greater Downtown Dayton Plan** and help provide input into the blueprint for the future of downtown!

PLAN PREVIEW

Stop in during **Urban Nights** and get a sneak peek at draft plan recommendations from the people working on its various projects. See maps, renderings and other visual representations of the future of our urban core.

Friday, September 11, 5-10 p.m. at 8 N. Main St. (street level entrance)

OPEN STUDIO SESSIONS

Each event will feature a presentation and group discussion, followed by hands-on opportunities to provide your own input into the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan. Get involved in shaping the future!

Saturday, October 3

Monday, October 5

Tuesday, October 6

All sessions will be held at 8 N. Main St. (street level entrance.) Session times and info will be posted at downtowndayton.org.

Dayton... Host It at Home!

The **City of Dayton** and the **Dayton Convention Center**, along with a group of public and private sector partners, recently launched a unique campaign to encourage local groups to host their events in downtown Dayton, rather than at other state and national venues. The **Dayton... Host It at Home** program points out that holding your event in your hometown is a win-win situation—your organization benefits from the low-cost and convenient services at the Dayton Convention Center and surrounding amenities, and the community benefits from the economic impact that your event brings to the area! From large conventions to modest group meetings, find out how your event can make a significant difference by visiting daytonhostitathome.com.



Fall Urban Nights Set for Friday, September 11



Prepare to walk on the creative side when **Urban Nights** returns to downtown Dayton **Friday, September 11, from 5-10 p.m.** More than 30,000 people came out to

enjoy Urban Nights in May, and this time the event will feature more ways to actively participate in the arts. September's Urban Nights will focus heavily on downtown's strong arts community, highlighting a wide variety of performing arts groups as well as the many visual artists in the area. The event will also showcase downtown's eclectic dining and nightlife hotspots, music venues, retail shops and housing locations. Businesses and restaurants will offer special discounts, artists and galleries will open their doors to the public, roving musicians and entertainers of all kinds will perform throughout the center city, and downtown's most impressive urban living options will be open for tours. More than 100 creative places and spaces will be part of the event, including locations throughout downtown, the Oregon Arts District and the

Wright-Dunbar Business Village. Highlights of the September 11 Urban Nights will include:

- Performance stages throughout the city, featuring a variety of local talent, plus "Dayton Originals" on the Community Stage
- **ArtsFest** on the Courthouse Square Main Stage, with previews of the upcoming performing arts seasons, plus a concert by Beatles tribute band **Ticket to Ride** from 9-11 p.m.
- An interactive Chalk Walk on Main Street
- RiverScape MetroPark's **Taste of the Miami Valley**

A complete schedule of events and map will be available at downtowndayton.org in early September.

Urban Nights is presented by the **Downtown Dayton Partnership, Culture Works, Montgomery County** and the **City of Dayton** with additional support from **WDTN-TV2**, the **Dayton Power & Light Company, Greater Dayton RTA, HeartLand Federal Credit Union, Budweiser Select**, the **Downtown Priority Board, Dayton City Paper, Clear Channel, WDPB** and the **Ohio Arts Council**. For more information, visit downtowndayton.org.

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Become a DDP Partner!
The DDP is the strategic
planning organization for
downtown Dayton. If you
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