

DOWNTOWN ISSAQUAH

HISTORICALLY HIP

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SPRING 2016 MERCHANT NEWSLETTER

The mission of the DIA is to promote and enhance the vitality of historic Downtown Issaquah through programs and events that celebrate our unique culture.

Greetings downtown merchants, neighbors and friends,

Spring has finally arrived and DIA is very busy with Wine Walks and planning for summer events including **Fenders on Front Street, Make Music Day, ArtWalks, Fantastic Fly-In** and the **Gas Station Blues Series**. Brenda DeVore, previously with Recology, joined the DIA staff in February as Cultural Events Director. She has hit the ground running and we feel fortunate to have her. Please welcome her if you haven't already.



Keep Issaquah Beautiful is Saturday, April 23. Please participate by beautifying the exterior of your storefront. We expect over 150 volunteers spread out around Issaquah including downtown to pick up litter, weed, sweep and plant flowers.



The deadline is fast approaching to donate for **2016 Flower Basket campaign** for downtown. Please contribute to ensure we have a beautiful display this summer along Front and Sunset.

DIA is refreshing the banners along Front with 30 new designs. You'll see those starting to go up in May. Additionally, please look for upgrades to the exterior of the Shell Station as well as improvements on the interior to accommodate more programming inside.

The organizational committee has been setting up one on one meetings with merchants downtown to find out what you want from your downtown association. So please plan on spending some time with us to get to know each other better.



We welcome two new board members this month - Carla Villar, the Executive Director for artEAST and James Paricho, Senior Client Manager with Opus Bank. We currently have two positions open that we will be filling soon.



There are many volunteer opportunities with DIA . We are looking for help at events and on committees. Committees include Design, Economic, Organizational, Marketing and various event committees. Please contact Karen Donovan if you are interested in getting more involved with DIA. 425-391-1112 or volunteer@downtownissaquah.com.

Welcome new businesses **Nektar** in the Downtown Plaza and **One Hour Device Repair** on Sunset. We truly appreciate all the support we get from the downtown businesses, residents and visitors. Issaquah is the best community ever.

Karen Donovan
Executive Director



Brenda's Corner- Let's Ride!

Dust off your bicycles and get ready to celebrate **Bike Everywhere Day on Friday, May 20th**. In honor of National Bike Month, on May 20th we celebrate the choice to ride instead of using car transportation.

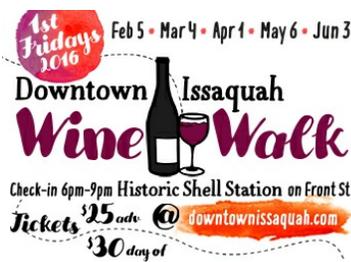
Since Issaquah is a bike friendly community with snazzy new bike racks along Front Street, perhaps your business could offer a discount or promotion to anyone that bikes to your business that day.

DIA and the City of Issaquah are hosting the **annual Kids Bike Rodeo at the Community Center on**

Sunday, May 22nd from 9am-Noon. Free helmets will be given out to kids that need them and all kids can have their helmets fitted. We will encourage attendees to ride downtown to visit our local businesses and practice the bike safety tips they learn at the rodeo.



OTHER UPCOMING DIA EVENTS



Wine Walks - First Fridays February through June

The fifth annual Wine Walk series starts in a few weeks. We have partnered with nonprofits KCLS, Issaquah History Museum, artEAST and Village Theatre to bring you some exciting venues. There will art and music at these events and wine of course. [Tickets on sale now.](#)

Save the Date for Keep Issaquah Beautiful Day Saturday, April 23 - 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

We will be sweeping, and sprucing up downtown with pots and fresh flowers for springtime. Recology will be sending their truck to do some power washing on the Friday prior. Please let us know if you have projects that you need help with.



Other upcoming DIA Events:

May	6th	Friday	Wine Walk 6:00-9:00
	12th	Thursday	Historic Pub Crawl 7:00-9:00
	22nd	Sunday	Kid Bike Rodeo 9:00-12:00
June	3rd	Friday	Wine Walk 6:00-9:00
	19th	Sunday	Fenders on Front Street - 8:00-3:00 pm
	21 st	Tuesday	National Music Day 5:00-9:00
July	8th	Friday	ArtWalk 6:00-9:00
	14th	Thursday	Gas Station Blues 7:00-9:00
	21st	Thursday	Gas Station Blues 7:00-9:00
	28th	Thursday	Gas Station Blues 7:00-9:00
August	4th	Thursday	Gas Station Blues 7:00-9:00
	5th	Friday	ArtWalk 6:00-9:00
	11 th	Thursday	Gas Station Blues
	18th	Thursday	Gas Station Blues
	26th	Friday	Fantastic Fly In - Downtown
	27th	Saturday	Fantastic Fly In - Poo Poo Point



Quarterly Downtown Meeting
Tuesday, May 17 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Historic Shell Station - 232 Front Street
North

Save the date for future quarterly meetings

Tuesday, August 9

Tuesday, November 1

Join us for the next downtown meeting at the historic **Shell Station**.

We will be discussing ideas for a Downtown Merchant Program and give you some ideas to better engage with the downtown events. These meetings are casual events and a good way to get to know some of your fellow downtown merchants. We welcome your ideas and appreciate your enthusiasm and support!

Notes from the February meeting

Attendance was great. We had over 22 people show up. Brianne Ross and Kerry Ritland from the City of Issaquah came and talked about the upcoming sidewalk work. Sidewalk work will commence Mid May to Mid-July. The city will work closely with business owners to accommodate their needs and hours and do not expect a lengthy interruption. Most work will be done after 8 p.m. The east side of the street is being widened to 12' with 20' in front of Vino Bella. The west side of the street will stay the same except in front of Stan's where they need to update the ramps to new ADA requirements. The old trees on Front between Alder and Sunset will be relocated and the city will purchase 4-7 planter boxes to replace them. They hope to put in irrigation lines for planter boxes and/or irrigation conduit. In conjunction with this work the City will be conducting an overlay on Front Street between Gilman and Sunset in July. The tracks are being redone for the trolley crossing and there will be a weekend closure at this time. Additionally there will be flashing lights added at the crosswalks. Jamie Lilly asked if the city could mark Dogwood as an intersection. Keith Watts asked if the city could paint parking markers after the overlay to better align cars parking along Front. Paddy from Darigold would like to see a crosswalk in front of the receiving bay.

Andrea reviewed the recommendations from the Downtown Vitality Task Force 1) update the Old Town Plan and Design Standards including building height, pervious surfaces, parking restrictions and more signage allowances. 2) Create a consistent and well-designed streetscape plan to include signage and 3) DIA taking the lead in partnering with other community groups including working with Salmon Days on Front Street layout and activities and regular volunteer clean up days.



CITY NEWS

The City of Issaquah is planning some long overdue drainage work on Front Street between Alder and Sunset this summer. Work is estimated to commence in July/August with sidewalk work to include widening the sidewalk on the east side of the street, to better match the west side of the street. Street lamps will be removed on the east side of the street and replaced with conduit for irrigation and electric. Two new lights will also be added. Following this work, the City will be conducting a paving overlay on Front between Gilman and Sunset in August and September. The City will also be making ADA upgrades to the crosswalks and sidewalk ramps in several places along Front Street.

The older trees on Front between Alder and Sunset have been slated for replacement due to a variety of factors and will be taken out as part of the drainage project. Colorful planters with new plantings will replace them temporarily. Next year, the City of Issaquah and DIA will be working on a Streetscape plan. We will need your input!

The City and DIA will be performing more outreach to businesses and property owners as more information becomes available

COMMUNITY BOARD - PUBLIC SPACES DOWNTOWN TO RENT FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING OR PARTY

[Historic Train Depot](#) - Freight room for rent. great for a party or meeting

[Kiwanis Gibson Hall](#) - This hall has a commercial kitchen for cooking.

[FISH Science Center](#) - nice room for meetings

[Pelage Loft](#) - nice space upstairs for meeting. Non profits can rent for free.

[Historic Shell Station](#) - nice space for parties or meetings. Issaquah non profits can rent for free.

[Village Theatre/Kid Stage](#) - great space for large meetings. check availability

[City Hall / Eagle Room](#) - nice large room for meetings

[Boehm's Chapel](#) - pretty space on the grounds of Boehm's Candies

[Opus Bank](#) - nice room for meetings
