

# EDP Monthly

515 State Street, Erie, PA 16501  
814-455-ERIE or eriedowntown.com

Erie Downtown Partnership

April 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 3

## A Message from the President

As we at the Erie Downtown Partnership begin preparing for another vibrant Erie summer, it is important for us to take a step back and thank everyone who has supported this organization from its inception in 2004. It is no secret that the Partnership has had its share of challenges, but, just like all organizations, we are forging ahead. It is because of your support that we are not only moving forward, but are also entering an important phase of growth.

As Board President, I have watched this organization develop into a vital part of the revitalization efforts for downtown Erie. For example, we are proud to report that we have had tremendous success in bringing people to the area through various events. Currently, we are focusing on retaining the business we have and ultimately recruiting new business to the area. Grants, façade improvements, vacancy inventory and streetscape design are just some of the initiatives currently on our agenda.

In addition, we have expanded our Board of Directors to be more representative of our membership. In doing so, our outlooks and perspectives have developed and matured in just the past year, allowing us to chart our course for the next four to five years.

In the years to come, we look forward to not only encountering new challenges and opportunities, but also implementing many new goals and objectives. Although our goals are many, we are confident that we will accomplish them while focusing our attention on all that Erie Downtown is and will be.

I am proud of the successes we have achieved in the last five years and have no doubt that the Erie Downtown Partnership is – and will continue to be – stronger and more relevant than ever.



*Boo Hagerty, Hamot Health  
Foundation  
EDP Board President*

### Inside this issue:

EDP Renewal & General Membership Mtg. Information	2
Assessment Reminder	2
Team up to Clean up event April 25	2
Façade Grant Deadline	3
EDP Design Grant opportunity	3
Did you know??!!	3
EDP Member Exclusive offers!	4



## Erie Downtown Gift Certificates still available!



Don't forget that you can still purchase Erie Downtown Gift Certificates! Valid at over 35 locations, these gift certificates are the perfect gift for any occasion.

Gift Certificates can be purchased online at

[www.eriedowntown.com](http://www.eriedowntown.com) or at our office, located at 515 State Street. Whether you are looking for a night out on the town, a unique gift or a one of a kind clothing item, our gift certificates cover it all!

If you are a downtown business who would like to be involved in the Gift Certificate program please contact our office at 455-3743, to learn how fast and easy it is to join the program for free!



## 5 Years Already? EDP renewal and General Membership Meeting with Erie City Council

"I, and the other members of the EDP Board, look forward to seeing you at the May 13<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. This is the most important meeting of the past decade—it is your opportunity to discuss the renewal of the EDP with the Board and City Council. We look forward to hearing your comments, and to working with you throughout the next decade in continuing to renew Downtown Erie."

Tim Wachter  
EDP Vice President  
Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett

The Erie Downtown Partnership is a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization formed under City Council Ordinance Number 42-2004 in July of 2004. The Neighborhood Improvement District Act of 2000 allows for municipalities to create organization such as the EDP.

The vision of the EDP is simple; we strive to enhance the image of downtown, attract and retain businesses and maintain an environment that creates a vibrant Cultural and Entertainment District.

Within the City Council Ordinance was a sunset clause that after 5 years, the organization would be evaluated prior to renewal.

The Partnership will hold our **General Membership Meeting** on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at noon at BrewErie at Union Station. The staff and Board of the EDP will discuss the program and activities completed in 2008 as well as our work plan for 2009.

The Partnership will also invite the members of Erie City Council to attend this membership meeting.

Prior to the adoption of a

new ordinance, scheduled for votes on May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>, City Council would like to meet and talk with our members. If you are unable to attend, but would like to call or write to City Council regarding our renewal, please feel free to contact us for their information.

The General Membership meeting will include a buffet lunch; therefore RSVP's to attend are required. If you are planning on attending please email [julie.ross@eriedowntown.com](mailto:julie.ross@eriedowntown.com) or call our office at 814-455-3743.

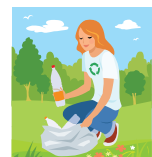
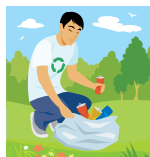
We look forward to seeing you on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## REMINDERS & OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Just a reminder that 2009 Assessments were mailed to property owners in January. Two payment options are provided by ordinance; you may pay in full by March 31<sup>st</sup> or in two equal installments. The due dates for installments are March 31<sup>st</sup> for the first half of payment with the remaining balance due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. If for any reason you did not receive an invoice or have questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at 814-455-3743 or email, [eriedowntown@eriedowntown.com](mailto:eriedowntown@eriedowntown.com).

### ❖ 2009 TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP EVENT

The Erie Downtown Partnership would like to ask our members to help keep our downtown clean and litter free. Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am-noon; please join us in our efforts to clean up our Downtown. If you are interested please contact our office as soon as possible, 814-455-3743, with teams of 3+ volunteers. The EDP will provide all materials needed for the clean up.



## Façade Grant Application Deadline MAY 29<sup>th</sup>!!

In the February 2009 Newsletter, the EDP informed members of a new grant program we have applied for through the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED). Once awarded, the grant program will give our members financial assistance to undertake façade improvements. Eligible activities include but are not limited to new windows, paint, awnings and signage on areas of the building

visible from the street.

This program is typically funded at the level of \$30,000 per year. It will require a minimum of a 50/50 match by the property owner, with the cap of the grant being \$5,000 per property.

For further details, design guidelines and an application for grant funding please go to our website at [www.riedowntown.com](http://www.riedowntown.com).

This is a wonderful opportunity to receive

financial assistance for updates to your façade, don't miss out!! Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Design Committee and awarded by the Board of Directors based on project worthiness and program funding levels from the State.

Again don't forget the deadline for applications is May 29<sup>th</sup> 2009. Any questions can be directed to Julie Ross or Brenda Sandberg.



Before (above) and after of a Façade Improvement Project courtesy of: [forum.skyscrapers.com](http://forum.skyscrapers.com)

## New Design Grant Assistance from the EDP

Another new and exciting opportunity geared towards the above mentioned Façade Grant, is a Design Assistance Grant from the EDP.

This grant is meant to provide those interested in submitting an application for a Façade grant, the opportunity to hire a design professional to assist with the compliance of Design Guidelines and creation of a building rendering. We have budgeted \$3,000 to grant in 2009 and if we determine a

continued need, this may be something we offer each year.

Projects will be reviewed based upon project worthiness and the best "bang for our buck". A match is not required, but projects with a cash match will be viewed more favorably.

If you are interested in this program, please contact the office or go to our website for more details. Take advantage of all we have to offer!



## Did you know??!!

According to the Downtown Promotion Reporter (Vol. 34, No. 4 April 2009) shoppers are becoming dissatisfied with the "mall experience." According to an article in *Stores Magazine*, shoppers complain that there is nothing new or unique at the

mall, and they gripe about the limited variety of restaurants. In her article, executive editor Susan Reda reported on shopper surveys that say mall shoppers vent that too many stores carry the same old items and that even finding parking may be

a problem!

This recent study is proof that our downtowns are the next shopping destination. With unique shops and opportunity, you are sure to find exactly what you are looking for downtown, not at the mall!



Erie Downtown  
515 State Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
814-455-ERIE

## Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 11am-10pm  
Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 11am-10pm  
Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 11am-11pm  
Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 11am-11pm

[www.eriedowntown.com](http://www.eriedowntown.com)

[eriedowntown@eriedowntown.com](mailto:eriedowntown@eriedowntown.com)

The 2009 "Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival" is now entering its 19<sup>th</sup> year. This family focused event is the "kick-off" festival for Erie's Summer Festival Season and has been enjoyed by over 50,000 visitors annually. Performance & Event Management makes every effort to produce a professionally orchestrated, family friendly event for the people of Erie and its surrounding communities. Select a visible presence from the list of marketing opportunities or choose to host your own on-site booth!

### WE INVITE YOU TO BE A PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!

**VENDER SPACE:** promotions, information, demonstrations, sales benefit from the wide demographic of visitors who attend this signature event. For a great advertising value, take this opportunity to talk one on one with rib fest visitors, showcase your company and its products, share your services, provide marketing materials and secure interest for future business.

**We Provide:** A 10ft. x 10ft. Space all four days of the event. This space includes electric for lighting. Your Company name and contact information will be listed on the event website as a valued participant. If you provide an on site drawing during the event, we will provide time and a mic during the exchange of bands for you to announce the drawing winner (Saturday-between 7PM & 8PM or during a band break)

**You Provide:** Your own personnel, tent, tables, chairs, table coverings, displays, company banners, and/or signage, marketing materials, drawings, lighting fixtures and a minimum of 50ft. heavy duty outdoor electric cord and the completed signed contract.

Regular cost for Vendor Space at the event is \$650, but for any Erie Downtown Partnership Member, you will have all of the same opportunity for only **\$550.**

**\*Any questions or interest should be directed to  
Kathi Danielson/Event Manager at 814-899-5177.**



Live. Work. Play.  
Shop. Dine. Enjoy.

### Erie Downtown Business Mixer

Please join Erie Downtown at The George Carroll House for our April Business Mixer. RSVP by Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> by calling 455-3743 or email [julie.ross@eriedowntown.com](mailto:julie.ross@eriedowntown.com)

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
5pm-7pm  
401 Peach Street