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### ERIE IS ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST FOR 2009

After months of preparation for a presentation at the National Civic League's All America City event, Erie unfortunately left without the honored title they once received in 1972. We would like to recognize all the hard work that the Erie delegation put forth this year! Erie was the only city in Pennsylvania nominated for this award and one of only a handful nominated from the northern part of the United States.

The All America City event is one that ranges in communities from 3,600 to 1.5 million in population. Started in 1949, its main purpose is to recognize and support the best-governed cities in America. The center of the awards has evolved into focusing on economic development, health, youth projects and efforts to improve race relations.

Our delegation this year consisted of Mayor Joe Sinnott, Brenda Sandberg-CEO of Erie Downtown Partnership, Erika Howland-City of Erie, Dave Deter-City of Erie, Stef Chatman-Erie Weed & Seed Initiative, Linda Wagner-Gannon University, Almitra Clerkin-Erie Playhouse, Whitey Cleaver-Erie County Council, Jim Thompson-Erie City Council, Matt Cummings- Erie Regional Chamber, Claudia Thornburg-Erie Regional Chamber, John Oliver-VisitErie.

The 60<sup>th</sup> All American City awards were held in Tampa, FL this year from June 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. Erie was proud to be one of the thirty three finalists to represent the best in civic excellence in the nation. We hope that Erie has the chance to present our City to the National Civic League again within the next few years. Erie is a City that is continually evolving, the changes and developments in our area are recognized throughout the nation and we feel that the opportunity we were give and the chance to present already makes Erie a winner in its own right! Brenda Sandberg, CEO of the EDP said of the experience, "After 37 years it is wonderful to have the opportunity to be a finalist in these awards and although we were not chosen the ideas and insight we gained from other communities will benefit Erie for years to come."

Again we would like to extend a huge congratulations and thank you to all of those who took the time to represent Erie and show their dedication to our wonderful city!

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## Educational Seminars for EDP Members



The EDP's Economic Restructuring Committee is currently wrapping up the final details on new Educational Seminars that will be offered exclusively to our EDP members. These luncheons will hopefully give small business owners the opportunity to meet with professionals regarding different aspects of business. Beginning in July, the first three seminars will focus on Human Resources. Please keep your eyes open for additional information to come your way soon!

\* Just a note...registration for these sessions will be sent via separate email and not attached to our newsletters. Due to the timing of the seminars and need for a RSVP.\*

## Tree Planting Postponed & Deadline Extended



Many of our members have requested the planting of trees in front of their businesses. We secured grant dollars through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to do just that! If you would like a tree planted in front of your business please contact the office no later than August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**We have been advised by DCNR to wait until fall to being planting the trees; this will benefit the overall life of the tree.** If your business needs a sidewalk cut to accommodate the tree, we have secured a deal with a local contractor to provide the cut, at your expense, for \$50.00. The EDP Maintenance staff has

been trained on how to properly maintain the tree and will do so, by the property owner. Again please call the office if you are interested or have any questions!

## Erie Downtown website additions!

The Erie Downtown Partnership website has a few changes! Due to the number of successful events held in our downtown area and the limited amount of space we have on our events calendar, we have added many website event links directly to ours. If you are

looking for things to do in the downtown area you can now find a majority of them in one spot and through just one click. We added the Art Museum, SeaWolves and Playhouse event links to our "Play" page. If you are interested in having your events linked directly to our website please email,

[julie.ross@eriedowntown.com](mailto:julie.ross@eriedowntown.com) or call 814-455-3743.

*\*Only events within our boundaries will be posted and the EDP has the right to refuse any events not deemed in line with our vision and mission for the entire Erie Downtown community and its members. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the office.\**

## 10 Realistic Themes for Downtown Retail!

In the following article that was a perspective article for the June 15<sup>th</sup> issue of the Downtown Idea Exchange, written by Bill Ryan from the University of Wisconsin-Extension, you will find that our downtown is in the right direction to the type of retail that makes a downtown successful!

Ten broad categories of retail are emerging as good fits for downtowns.

1.) Lifestyle & Wellness Retail: This independent business allows busy people to prepare their own healthy meal, take it home to freeze or bake at their convenience.

2.) Community gathering place businesses: Downtown's central place and sense of place make it uniquely suited for people to congregate for social or community purposes, many refer to these retail hubs as coffee shops.

3.) Retailers that celebrate local heritage: The character of traditional downtowns is well suited to businesses that sell products to celebrate the past and help those from the community remember what their city use to be and what is has become.

4.) Stores that entertain: "Shoppertainment" is a concept adopted by certain major chains in recent years. But entertainment can be part of the downtown retail experience on a smaller scale; many downtown are luring customers in with sounds and smells.

5.) Stores that celebrate local art: Often people look to downtown as a place where local products are sold. Unlike malls, downtown often have stores showcasing locally made jewelry, art and gifts.

6.) Stores that educate: Businesses that provide the community with education to accompany their products often find downtown the most attractive place to do business.

7.) Stores with a community and global perspective: A growing segment of the population is interested in supporting businesses that help the local economy and contribute to a better world.

8.) Gift and indulgences stores: These stores

provide shoppers with the opportunity to buy flowers, jewelry, gifts and artwork. Some even have opportunities for customers to watch the making of these goods.

9.) Unique destination retailers: Many one-of-a-kind and innovative businesses successfully operate downtown. Often customers come downtown because they can not find these specialty goods anywhere else.

10.) Neighborhood-serving retailers: The growing downtown housing market requires conveniences to support quality of life. Examples of these are butchers, electronics, hardware, restaurants and laundry services.

All in all you see that Downtown Erie is on its way to having the retail that will sustain our area for years to come. With the new residential units that are currently being finished, we can offer our new residents and visitors the specialty shopping they expect to find downtown.



# EDP MEMBER OFFERS!

Erie Downtown Partnership  
515 State Street  
Erie, Pa 16501



Join the SeaWolves for this offer!!!!



eriedowntown@eriedowntown.com

www.eriedowntown.com

The Erie SeaWolves would like to offer you two great ways to get tickets for EDP Night on Tuesday August 4th at 7:05 pm as the SeaWolves take on the Akron Aeros – the Class AA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians.

1. You can purchase Reserved Seat tickets in advance (no minimum on the number of tickets) for only \$2 each! What a great way to reward employees, customers or clients!
2. If purchasing tickets in advance does not work, you can distribute coupons to your employees, customers or clients that will get them a Reserved Seat ticket for only \$2 for this night only!

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



This is an offer that is being made exclusively to EDP members for this night only!

**\*\*If you are an EDP business and wish to purchase for employees or customers, the SeaWolves will recognize your business the night of the game!!**

**\*If you are interested in either or both of these offers you MUST contact Peter Hammer at the SeaWolves office at (814) 456-1300 by Friday July 31 2009.\***

Thank you for your time and consideration and we hope you join us for a “Howl of a Good Time” on Tuesday, August 4!