



# Downtown News

March 2010

## DDA Board

**John Prosch**

*PKSA Karate Schools of America  
Chairman*

**Mayor Randy Walker**

*CEO*

**Bob Squires**

*Resident  
Vice Chairman*

**Bruce Boland**

*Boland Florist  
Treasurer*

**Ken Versele**

*Resident  
Secretary*

**Dash Desai**

*Garden City Medical Center*

**Penni Klei**

*District Resident*

**Brian Lindbloom**

*Lindbloom State Farm  
Insurance*

**Orin Mazzoni, Jr.**

*Orin Jewelers*

**John Santeiu, Jr.**

*Resident*

**Ron Tyskiewicz**

*Resident*

## Staff

**Jackie Schatz**

*Executive Director*

**Cyndi Bruski**

*Administrative Assistant*

**DDA Office**

**29213 Ford Road**

**Garden City, MI 48135**

**Phone 734-261-2830**

**Fax 734-261-6604**

**[www.downtowngardencity.org](http://www.downtowngardencity.org)**

## CONGRATULATIONS, COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS!

### First Citizen

Pat Squires, a thirty year plus resident and extraordinary volunteer has been named this years "First Citizen". Her commitment to the community stands out with her willingness to help where needed. She is active in her church, St. Dunstan, Secretary of the Mayor's Committee for Underprivileged Children, member of the DDA Promotion Committee and a core member of Garden City's Santaland Parade Committee to name a few.

### Business Person of the Year

Laurie Corell, owner of Sports Venue Bar and Grill is recognized for her integrity and leadership in business as Business Person of the Year. Opening her business in 2004, Laurie's generous volunteer work has gained community wide attention and appreciation. Laurie gives credit to her great employees for making it possible for her to be active in numerous charitable events to benefit the community.

### Business Beautification Recognition

Rare Muscle Car Parts stands out in the downtown for the remarkable transformation that it underwent guided by it's owner Mario Perrotta. Mario purchased the vacant cement block building, located next to Kmart, and created the upscale custom brick building that is home to a niche business that caters to classic car enthusiasts.

Congratulations to all award winners, they will be honored at the Garden City Chamber of Commerce's Community Celebration, Friday, March 19, 2010 at Hawthorne Valley. Contact the Chamber for ticket information. Phone 734-422-4448

## NEW BUSINESSES OPEN

**Joey's Cheesesteak:** 5926 Middlebelt Road, in the Garden City Town Center Plaza. Phone-734.266.2626. Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 11– 9:30 pm., Fri. and Sat. 11–11 pm, and Sun. 1–8 pm, with delivery available everyday. Joey's is famous for their authentic Philly Cheesteaks, Italian Hogies famous Cheez Whiz and a warm, fun environment. [www.joeyscheesteaks.com](http://www.joeyscheesteaks.com).

**HIMNUS:** 30032 Ford Road, in the Garden City Square. Hours: Tues.- Sat. 10 am–6 pm. Phone: 734.469.2038. A unique resale & gift shop for all things wonderful. HIMNUS features home furnishings, fashion accessories and a personal gift service. Let them be your guide to gifts that are unique, innovative, and original.

**Me & My Shadow:** 29855 Ford Road, Suite C. Garden City. Hours: Tues.–Sat. 10 am – 8 pm. Phone: 734.525.9500. A swim and fitness center for dogs. Me & My Shadow offers swimming, walking and bathing your dog in a controlled friendly environment. [www.meandmyshadowllc.com](http://www.meandmyshadowllc.com)

**Advance Auto Service:** 29904 Ford Road, Phone 734.402.1000. Hours: Mon–Fri. 8 am–6 pm, Sat. 8 am–5 pm. A complete auto service center with towing and shuttle service available. Advance Auto Service is a family owned business with over 40 years of experience.

**Simply Polish:** 6201 Middlebelt Road. Phone: 734.525.2880 Hours: Closed Mon., Tues., & Wed. Thurs. 1-5 pm, Fri. 10-6 pm and Sat 10am–4 pm. Your number one source for Polish pottery, amber jewelry, glass ornaments, crystal artifacts, dance costumes, t-shirts, language classes and more. [www.simplypolishusa.com](http://www.simplypolishusa.com)

## EVENTS BEING PLANNED TO ATTRACT VISITORS

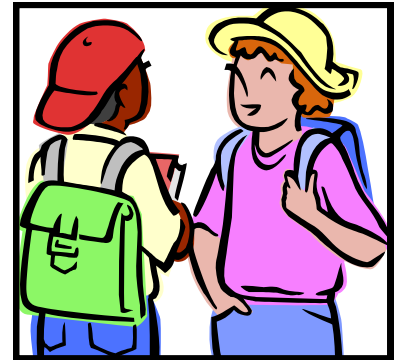


### Annual Spring Planting

Started in the mid 90's by the Garden Club and volunteers, mass plantings of flowers have enhanced the downtown and nearby civic center buildings. This year the spring planting project will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010. Businesses are encouraged to join in and add plantings to their properties. To participate in the project, call the DDA office or complete the enclosed form.

### Downtown Kids Walkaround

The DDA is proud to participate in the community project sponsored by the Garden City Hospital and Garden City Schools to promote healthy habits for kids. The Downtown Kids Walkaround will be held on May 1, 2010, between the hours of 10 am through 5 pm. The basic idea is a walk-a-thon promoting good health and community values with a goal of a community improvement, a play structure in a city park. Local businesses are providing funds through sponsorships for the play structures. Final plans will be updated on the DDA website: [www.downtowngardencity.org](http://www.downtowngardencity.org) Contact **Joyce Barszcz, Garden City Hospital: 734.634.7308.**



### Available Business Property Tour Rescheduled

The "Tour" has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 10, 2010, between the hours of 3 pm thru 7 pm and starts at the DDA office, 29213 Ford Road. Vacant business properties in the downtown will be featured to attract potential businesses to fill them. Property owners with available property outside of the downtown may participate in the event by providing information about the site to the DDA. The objective of the tour is to attract new businesses and to retain existing business that may need to relocate for more space.

The self-guided tour begins at the DDA office with a package of information and site maps for the prospect. The prospect would then visit the property and meet with the owner or representative. To participate in the tour, the property owner agrees to have the property open to show and someone on site to meet with the prospect. While at the DDA office, the potential business owner would receive information about business incentives available and a guide to starting a business in Garden City. If you have property and would like to participate in the tour, contact the DDA office for more information.

### DDA holds Open House

Downtown businesses are being invited to an open house on Thursday, April 15, 2010, 3pm to 7pm. The open house will provide a networking opportunity with fellow businesses, information about DDA programs and projects that are being planned for the downtown district.

If you are considering property improvements or upgrading your business signage stop by to learn about the DDA's low interest loan program for Façade and Parking Improvements. An Architectural Assistance Grant is also available to work with an Architect in developing your design and construction needs. The DDA would like to hear your suggestions on ways that we can help your business. We look forward to seeing you.

### 2nd. Annual Downtown Days—Save the dates: August 6th., 7th., 8th. 2010

Mark your calendar for this three day event of sidewalk sales, garage sale area, food, entertainment and family attractions are being planned to increase foot traffic. Sponsorships will be available, more information and details to follow.

The DDA Promotion Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30am in the DDA Office and welcomes your business to participate. Volunteers typically spend one to two hours a month working on event planning.

## **Garden Plaza Plan Update:**

A series of meetings have been held with the Garden Plaza business and property owners to discuss improvements and maintenance needs for the block. At the January 18th. meeting, a concept plan was presented by McKenna Associates that provided parking close to the businesses, re-designed traffic circulation and a boulevard entrance on Ford Road into Kmart replacing the two existing driveways. The DDA is working with Kmart and MDOT for the improved entrance as MDOT will be resurfacing Ford Road and replacing driveways in the project area this summer. Landscaping and screen wall modifications will be incorporated.

The DDA is working with the owners to organize a Business Improvement District in order to organize the maintenance needs for the area, such as snow removal and other improvements that would benefit the businesses and their needs. The BID is a public- private partnership, created by PA 120, and used by many downtowns to organize and share the costs for maintenance, capital improvements, and marketing. Downtown Ann Arbor and its DDA are currently working on the creation of such an organization for these same needs. Read the Ann Arbor Chronicle for additional information on the subject.

## **DDA Attends Business Expo**

Recently, the DDA staff attended "Breaking the Boundaries", to promote Downtown Garden City, an event sponsored by fifteen area Chambers of Commerce including Garden City. Nearly seventy exhibitors representing retail and service businesses were represented. The DDA's display was created by McKenna Associates for the DDA's attendance at a similar venue called "Deal Making" last summer to recruit new businesses. The DDA's marketing brochure and market analysis were handed out during the networking event.

## **Public Improvements in Development**

The Design Committee is working with George Hartman Architects to design improvements to the public space at the Commons Corner. The gazebo structure has become an eye sore and will be torn down this spring while planning for the new look is being finalized. The design will create a focal point for the downtown and tie in to the Garden Plaza Design Plan. Your ideas and input are welcome, check the DDA website for the next Design Committee meeting.

Design work is on-going for the Civic Center Area where improvements for the public gathering space used for civic events is being planned.

## **Community Pavilion Project**

### **DDA Board puts Community Pavilion Project on Hold**

At a Special Board Meeting held Wednesday, March 10, 2010, the DDA Board unanimously decided to stop further activity on the pavilion due to revised construction estimates.

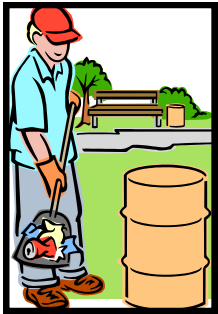
The pavilion concept work began in March 2009 with a committee made up of DDA Members, Chamber of Commerce, City Administration and several residents, all providing input and working with the DDA's Architect to develop a pavilion that would serve the Farmers Market and events in the downtown. It is the DDA's intention to place this public improvement project on hold for a period of two to three years and at that time all interested parties will be invited to participate.

## **Central Business District Ordinance Update**

The CBD Ordinance, adopted in 1996, is being revised to be more user-friendly and to reflect the newly adopted Market Analysis and Strategic Action Plan. The downtown core area is covered by this ordinance that regulates such things as permitted uses and structures, site and building design and development standards for the review of the Planning Commission and the DDA. The Permitted Uses section is being amended to provide a broader range of retail uses, allow for residential uses and loft apartments; and provide for special land uses. The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6pm on Thursday, March 25th. to hear your comments.

## Garden City Updates

### Spring Clean Up Begins Downtown:



The Downtown Development Authority is responsible for the maintenance in the downtown district. In April you will notice workers sweeping, cleaning up beds and sidewalks, picking up trash, and preparing the downtown for its spring plantings. Many downtown businesses will be starting to clean up, paint and do other general maintenance work to their buildings. Downtown Garden City can benefit greatly from its business owners participating in a spring clean up. Welcoming residents and visitors alike with a clean, flower-filled

downtown is an image everyone can work towards and appreciate.

### Cudos and Compliments:

**Dairy Queen of Garden City**, has recently completed renovations inside and out with the latest corporate design. Dairy Queen is participating in the DDA's Façade Improvement Program with a low interest loan to assist with the project with updated color, lighting and sign.

### Volunteers

The DDA is seeking volunteers to help out with current projects and promotions in the downtown. An opportunity to learn more about downtown Garden City, become involved in events and meet great people. If you would like to become a volunteer visit the DDA website and click on the volunteer page.



### Downtown Garden City Website

The DDA website features downtown businesses and the latest on what's happening downtown. Visit our website to verify that your business information is accurate.

Enclosed in the newsletter you will find a Business Directory Information Sheet. Please fill out and return to the DDA office. All information provided will help the DDA promote and market downtown Garden City and will be used to update the website and will provide visitors with business information and a link to your business website, if available.

Website Design by Matthew R. Rochon, [www.mattrochon.net](http://www.mattrochon.net)

## DDA Calendar

### Board Meeting Schedule:

March 30, 2010 5:00 pm.  
April 20, 2010 8:00 am.

### Event Schedule:

#### DDA Open House

April 15, 2010

#### Downtown Kids Walkaround

May 1, 2010

#### Annuals Planting Downtown

May 15, 2010

#### Available Business Property Tour:

June 10, 2010

#### 2nd Annual Downtown Days:

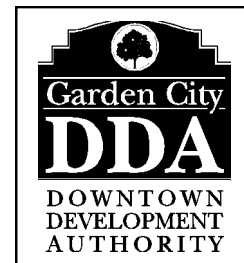
August 6th, 7th, & 8th, 2010

#### Chili Cook-Off

October 9, 2010

#### Santaland Parade & Santaland Event

November 27, 2010



### Garden City Chamber of Commerce Events:

#### March Luncheon Date:

March 23, 2010, 12:00 pm  
Roma Banquet of Garden City

#### Garden City Farmers Market Every Wednesday

May - October 9 am—2 pm

#### Downtown For Breakfast

May 14, 2010, 8:00 am

Plato's in Garden City Square

For more information check the Chamber's website at [www.gardencity.org](http://www.gardencity.org)