

Downtown Hosts Busy Summer Activities Schedule

Friday Nights Downtown

This free music series will be presented every Friday for six weeks from May 20 through June 24. The concerts run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the E Street Plaza at 220 E Street. Many downtown stores, restaurants and galleries remain open later on Friday eve-



nings. Bring a folding chair and enjoy a variety of local bands playing your favorite musical styles. For more information about scheduled musical groups, call the Davis Downtown Business Association (DDBA) at (530) 756-8763 or visit www.davisdowntown.com.

Downtown IN FOCUS

Sidewalk Sales



More than 40 stores will join forces Friday, July 15, through Sun-

day, July 17, to bring you hot summer bargains. A list of participating stores will be published on the DDBA Web site.

Outdoor Movie and Book Release

To celebrate the highly anticipated release of J.K. Rowling's newest book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, at midnight on July 15, the Davis Downtown Business Association and downtown businesses will present a festive evening of family activities leading up to midnight. The movie *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* will be shown free of charge on a huge outdoor screen from 9 to 11:30



p.m. in the E Street Plaza. Other special activities and refreshments await participants, so plan to bring your folding chairs and join in the festivities.

Fourth of July Criterium Races



The 29th annual Fourth of July Criterium Classic races will take place in the core area from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event encompasses a dozen races for age groups ranging from kids to

SEE DOWNTOWN, PAGE 3

At Every Turn, a New Face on Downtown Davis

While taking a walk downtown the other day, I thought about how much it has changed in the past few years and about how many changes are still to come. Our downtown is transforming itself to meet the needs of our multi-faceted community.

Think about the new projects downtown:

- Where an old Kentucky Fried Chicken once stood on E Street now stands a bright mixed-use building known as The Lofts, housing retail, offices and residents. Several similar projects with great restaurants, retail stores, services and modern apartments are changing the face of the downtown.

- Improvements have made E

Street Plaza a better place for relaxing and events. Next time you're downtown, check out the clock tower with the water feature in the plaza, or enjoy an ice cream cone under one of the shade trees.

- After years of planning and fundraising, the Pence Gallery on E Street has been transformed from a small bungalow to an eye-catching monument to the visual arts encompassing multiple galleries, meeting spaces and outdoor



patios. Groups can hold small receptions and meetings at the gallery, and opportunities still exist to sponsor some of the exciting improvements and shows.

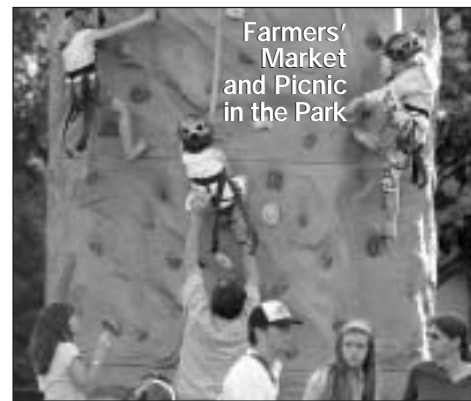
- Successful businesses have expanded and new businesses have opened, adding to the diverse offerings downtown.

And those are just some of the things that already have been completed. There's much more underway.

- This summer, construction of the Third Street Corridor Improvements between D and G Streets will begin. While the project may cause some temporary disruption downtown, it will result in greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists on Third Street. Improvements will be made to sidewalk crossings, ramps, street lighting, landscaping and bus stops along the corridor. Some drainage problems that have plagued the street for years will also be fixed. The construction is scheduled to begin after July 6 and will be completed before the end of September. Don't let the construction keep you away from downtown, and look forward to the attractive results.

- We're excited that significant progress has been made on the renovations at Historic City Hall at 226

F Street. The restaurant tenant is busy at work, with plans to open in mid-June. Changes to the property include an outdoor dining area and a much-needed indoor banquet room. The project will enhance the vitality of the downtown area and will increase dining choices. I know that many of us can't wait to see how the former City Council chambers have been transformed into a dining room.



- The hugely popular Davis Farmers' Market continues its Wednesday evening "Picnic in the Park" market and festivities in Central Park downtown. In the fall, work on park improvements will begin near the corner of Third and C Streets. The patio will be extended toward Third Street and additional shade trees will be planted. The market hopes to make the new space the site of Saturday morning cooking classes and children's nutrition activities.

- On G Street, look for the Davis Food Co-op's new covered bicycle racks that were installed recently near the northwest corner of the building. The custom shade structure was designed and artistically

built by Creative Metal Works. These are the same folks who created the black metal mini-highwheel bicycle racks on some of the sidewalks downtown. I encourage you to lock your bikes to these bicycle rack sculptures.

Downtown is also the site of many special events and entertainment throughout the year. Ongoing downtown activities include book signings, live concerts, criterium closed-course bicycle races, fun runs, screenings of independent and Hollywood movies, parades, family holiday celebrations, art openings on the second Fridays of the month, conferences, barbecues, sidewalk sales, speakers and forums. For an up-to-date listing of activities, visit the Davis Downtown Business Association Web site at www.davisdowntown.com.

The array of dining choices in Davis is remarkable for a downtown of our size. Amazingly, more than 75 eating establishments are within walking distance of each other downtown. You can find restaurants featuring everything from Indian to ice cream, Mexican to Mediterranean, Japanese to juice bars, Middle Eastern to East Asian, Thai to tea house, American to Afghan, and everything in between.

In this increasingly cookie-cutter world, it's amazing that you can walk in the door of most of our downtown stores and still meet the owner. With all of the transformation going on in downtown Davis, I hope we can keep this neighborly part of our community from changing.



Jim's Gems
CITY MANAGER

By Jim Antonen,
jantonen@cityofdavis.org