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President's Message by John Horner

First Interstate Bank

Happy New Year to you all. This is my opportunity to say goodbye as your President of the Board. I have so thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the great staff of the MDA, the wonderful board members, and you - the membership of the MDA. It has truly been my honor to serve you these past two years. This is an amazing organization working hard for an amazing community. Thank you.

The Missoula Downtown has so much to look forward to in 2013. At our annual meeting, to be held on January 16, we will take some time to highlight the accomplishments of 2012 - and there are quite a few. The MDA is always working on something. We had a great 2nd Winter Brewfest in February, and followed up with strong annual events such as the Garden City Brewfest, Membership BBQ, Out to Lunch, Downtown ToNight, and Garden City River Rod Run during the summer months. We ended the events season with another successful River City Roots Fest, and most recently we had a hugely successful Parade of Lights and our year-end Christmas Party. We are already gearing up for 2013.

But you all know we are not just an events-driven organization. Our Master Plan Implementation, Advocacy, Membership, and Marketing committees have all been very busy. I want to take this opportunity (because I can!) to advocate for something extremely important

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MDA Annual Awards Banquet

This year's MDA Annual Awards Banquet will be held Wednesday, January 16 at the Governor's Room in the Historic Florence Hotel. Five new members will join the MDA board, a new president will be ratified by the membership, and over the course of the evening there will be four awards bestowed upon nominees that have gone above and beyond their call of duty to serve Downtown Missoula and the MDA. The planning committee is pleased that some of Missoula's best talent has agreed to perform at the banquet in what is being called the "Missoula Trio" of Tom Catmull, Shane Clouse and Bob Wire. There are only 250 seats available for this year's dinner, so call to reserve a table or individual spot right away. Individual cost is \$35 per person, tables of 5 are \$250 and tables of 10 are \$500. RSVP to the MDA office at 543-4238 or e-mail the Program Director, Jenny Mueller, at jenny@missouladowntown.com.

Nominees for the 2012 awards are:

Downtowner of the Year
Larry Brehm - Brehm Architecture - Caras Park Improvements
Rod Austin, Anne Guest & Ellen Buchanan - Park Place Parking Structure
Don Ross - Vendor - Boulevard Landscaping and Beautification
Matt Ellis - Mountain Baseball, MSO Hub & Uptown Diner

Downtown Employee of the Year
Alan Brown - A.B. Cooks
Bill Lake - Missoula Parking Commission
Sara White - First Interstate Bank

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2012 Board of Directors

President

John HornerFirst Interstate Bank

Past President

Diane LanningSt. Patrick Hospital
Vice President of Advocacy

Todd FrankThe Trail Head
Vice President of Marketing & Events

Brent CampbellWGM Group
Vice President of Master Plan Implementation

Matt EllisMissoula Osprey/Uptown Diner
Vice President of Membership

Racquel WilliamsHoliday Inn - Downtown
Treasurer

Harry WatkinsZip Beverage

Dan CederbergCederberg Law Offices, P.C.

Rick EneasGalusha, Higgins & Galusha

Jim FoleyThe University of Montana

Kim Klages-JohnsMSO Hub

Matt LoomisBaskin Robbins

Julie McFarlandForest Pharmaceuticals

Aimee McQuilkinBetty's Divine

Tim O'LearyKettlehouse Brewing Co.

Brooke RedpathMissoulian

Heidi StarrettComputer Central

Kent WatsonKent Watson & Associates

Ex Officio Members

Rod AustinDowntown BID

Ellen BuchananMRA

Anne GuestMissoula Parking Commission

Ryan HansenMCDC

Michael TreeMountain Line

MDA Staff

Linda McCarthyExecutive Director

Colin HickeyMarketing & Events Director

Jenny MuellerProgram Director

Robert GiblinBookkeeper

Julie WalshAdministrative Coordinator

President's Message cont. from page 1
that is happening in our downtown: the soon-to-begin construction of the Poverello Center. The building site should soon see some activity, if it hasn't already, and I encourage each and every one of you to get involved somehow. The most obvious way is to cut a check and help with the costs. Please be willing to listen to the requests which will soon come your way. We have the opportunity to be part of a legacy which can help the community of Missoula care for the unfortunate among us. The time has come to work together in the design, financing, and building of this facility. I truly believe it will be good for Missoula.

I would also like to remind you that the Caras Park improvements continue. We are only partially to our goal. The next step is to get the walls constructed and installed and to then build up the resources for the replacement canopy. A lot of work, but well worth it. Your financial assistance is still appreciated here as well.

Thank you all for the hard work, your donations of time and money, and your patience this past year. I have said it before and will say it again: we live in a wonderful place!

Awards Banquet cont. from page 1

Colin Hickey - MDA, HB Enterprises, Badlander, etc.

Board Member of the Year
John Horner - First Interstate Bank
Kent Watson - Watson & Associates
Heidi Starett - Computer Central

Committee Member of the Year
Marty Bourassa - GCRRR Committee Chair
Ellen Buchanan - Winter BrewFest, Garden City BrewFest, Roots Fest, Master Plan & More
Dan DeWitt - Downtown ToNight

McCarthy Departs MDA for Sabbatical in New Zealand

As we launch into 2013, change is afoot at the Missoula Downtown Association. My husband, Tom Gallagher, has accepted a one-semester teaching appointment at Massey University of Palmerston North, New Zealand, Missoula's Sister City. Our family leaves the country on January 12 to live on the other side of the world for several months. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all three of us and one that will enrich our lives and provide new perspectives on life, our country, our community and more.

The MDA Board of Directors has granted me an eight-month sabbatical after 13 years of service to this organization. I am exceptionally honored and grateful to have this opportunity to step away, but I am more appreciative of the invitation to return.

We have found the best possible replacement in Melanie Brock (see related story), who has rolled up her sleeves and jumped right in to serve our members and our mission. Please welcome her to our team and know she has the best interests of Downtown and MDA at heart and will serve as an exceptional leader and advocate for our members.

As always, our staff will continue to provide the support and services you and the downtown community have come to expect. Colin Hickey, Robert Giblin, Jenny Mueller and Julie Walsh, as well as Rod Austin, Laurie Johnson, Rick Stephens and Daniel Tulk are exceptional people who are passionate about this place and this organization. It's our staff I will miss the most while I am gone. They are such a joy to work with, and their commitment and service are inspiring. We have a lot to be thankful for.

Melanie Brock Hired as Acting MDA Director

The Missoula Downtown Association has hired Melanie Brock as its Acting Executive Director to fulfill the roles and responsibilities vacated by current director Linda McCarthy, who has been granted an eight-month sabbatical to travel with her family to the South Pacific.

Brock will officially commence her duties on January 7 and will serve in that role until McCarthy's return on September 1. She comes to the MDA with extensive experience in public service and fundraising, having recently worked on Steve Bullock's successful election campaign for Governor of the State of Montana.

"We are very excited to welcome Melanie Brock as a member of our dynamic staff," said John Horner, President of the MDA Board of Directors. "She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and relationships that will serve us well while Linda is on sabbatical."

Brock has an M.A. degree in Political Science from The University of Montana. She most recently served as the Director of Finance for the Friends of Steve Bullock (2011-12); was the State Director of Outreach and Finance for Friends of Max Baucus and Glacier PAC (2010-11, 2006-09); served as Press Secretary and Field Representative for Senator Baucus (2009-10, 2004-06); and worked on Mayor Engen's campaign for re-election.

"I am really excited about this opportunity to serve the Missoula Downtown Association," Brock said, "and I am fascinated by all the different aspects of the organization and what it does for the Missoula community. I am honored to serve in this role with the board of directors and staff and am really looking forward to working on behalf of the MDA members."



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Downtown Spotlight

4 Ravens Gallery

248 N. Higgins, Suite A

317-1543

As many may have noticed, a new art gallery opened its doors downtown this past November. On the corner of Higgins and Broadway, you will find the MDA's newest member: 4 Ravens Art Gallery. Established by ten partners, 4 Ravens Art Gallery brings a diverse and fresh perspective to the art scene in Downtown Missoula. The partners each offer exquisite art taking many forms, from forged-metal to photography, leather bags, woodworking, painting and other unique pieces.

The 4 Ravens partners are working to create an atmosphere in the gallery that allows visitors to experience the beauty of their creations. Towards that end, consignments are accepted when they complete or accentuate the message that the gallery is creating.

The partners all call Western Montana home and are proud to be a part of our thriving downtown. When you stop by to see what the 4 Ravens has to offer, make sure to say hello to the artist at the helm. The same individuals who create their pieces are available to interact and assist their customers.

-Rick Eneas



4 ravens gallery

Welcome New Members

Community Food & Agriculture Coalition, Inc.

Bonnie Buckingham
117 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802
721-0543
bonnie@missoulacfac.org

4 Ravens Gallery

Jane Goffe
248 N. Higgins, Suite A
Missoula, MT 59802
317-1543
4ravengallery@gmail.com

Boulevard Banners for Nonprofits

Have you ever wondered where the banners hanging downtown come from? The MDA manages these banners under its 14-year-old



Missoula Downtown Boulevard Banner Program. With this program, local nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply to reserve banner spaces available around downtown. Banners are usually reserved for one month and promote cultural, artistic or sporting events and area attractions of public interest. In 2012, this program served 21 nonprofits marketing to the Missoula community, and there's room for more in 2013. Applications are received on an ongoing basis, and you can reserve up to one year in advance. The cost per light pole is \$15-\$20, and there are 108 spaces to choose from. The banner policy and application can be downloaded at www.missouladowntown.com/about/downtown-banner-program or by reaching Julie at the office, 543-4238 or mda@missouladowntown.com.

The MDA also encourages area nonprofits to submit their applications for the Caras Park Sponsorship Program. Every year the MDA Board awards several sponsorships to assist non-profits in renting the pavilion for community events. Applicants are reviewed by the Missoula Downtown Association Board of Directors, granting \$1,950 in rental sponsorships in 2012. Individual awards are granted to nonprofit events that demonstrate a clear benefit to the Missoula community, bring a significant number of people to the Downtown area, and provide a positive image for Caras Park, Downtown and Missoula. Applications for the 2013 Sponsorship Program are being accepted until Friday, Jan. 25 at 5 pm. and can be found online here: www.missouladowntown.com/about/caras-park.

MISSOULA Downtown CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



Congrats to Noteworthy Paper & Press for winning the Best Overall Window in the 2012 Downtown Holiday Window Decorationg Contest.

MDA Committee Meetings

Advocacy

Tuesday, January 8
4-5 pm MDA Office

Caras Park Improvements

Thursdays
10-11am MDA Office

Master Plan Implementation Team

Thursday, January 17
10-12 pm at 140 West Pine

Membership

Thursday, January 17
4-5 pm MDA Office

Marketing Committee

Wednesday, January 23
10-11am MDA Office

Winter Brewfest Committee

Wednesdays
4-5 pm MDA Office

Join us for

Downtown on Tap!!

Tuesday, Jan. 29

5pm - 7pm

**MSO Hub
140 N. Higgins**

Start the New Year off right! Join us for the first Downtown on Tap of the year hosted by the staff at the MSO Hub. Stop in and enjoy a drink or some delectable appetizers and check out all the MSO Hub has to offer.



Member Shout-Outs

Record Gift Card Year!

The MDA thanks Missoula shoppers for a great year of gift card sales. Our office was busy during the holidays with folks lining up to support MDA members with their dollars. Sales increased nearly 20% in 2012, and we look forward to more growth in 2013. For the 150 participating merchants, make sure to give us a call if your business gets a new POS system. We will stop by and reactivate it so you can keep accepting the Missoula Downtown Gift Card all year long!

Complimentary Bus Passes for Your Entire Staff

In a partnership with Mountain Line, Missoula Parking Commission and Missoula In Motion, the MDA offers the EZ Pass to its members, connecting you to free bus rides all year long!

To receive a permanent MDA EZ Pass, present proof of employment and have your photo taken at the Downtown Transfer Center. For an appointment call 721-3333. Passes are for employee use only and non-transferable.

Already have an MDA EZ Pass? It might be time to renew . . . passes that were issued more than THREE years ago will expire. Look on the back of your pass for an expiration date. If you have an EZ Pass that is about to expire, just bring proof of employment to the Transfer Center to get your new EZ PASS.

Contact Missoula In Motion at 258-4961 with any questions regarding this great Missoula Downtown Association membership benefit. •

Stay up-to-date by visiting www.missouladowntown.com.