



"What's Up Downtown"

The Laramie Main Street E-Newsletter

Vol. 2, Issue 7

July 2008

In This Issue

- Downtown Business Updates
- Fox Theater
- Downtown Zoning
- Sculpture Downtown
- Historic Walking Tour Brochure
- Historic Images of Downtown
- Jubilee Days: July 4-13
- Downtown Brewfest: July 12
- Farmer's Market: Message from the Managers
- Farmer's Market Fuel Grant
- Secret Garden Tour

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links...

- [Our Website](#)
- [More About Us](#)

Downtown Business Notices & Specials

Work & Live Downtown

Work Downstairs and Live Upstairs! Great for Entertaining!

- 7,500 sq

ft -Commercial/Residential

-- 2,500 sq ft Basement --

On premises parking w/

Dear Jane

Welcome to this month's edition of the Laramie Main Street Program e-newsletter. This month, we've changed the e-newsletter format slightly to include more in-depth information about projects and events affecting Downtown Laramie. Let us know what you think: send an email to mainstreet@laramiewy.org with comments and suggestions.

On the left, you can find a table of contents, quick links, and notices and specials from downtown businesses. Below, find news and events related to Downtown Laramie.

Fox Theater

Laramie Main Street contracted with an architectural firm to assess the state of the Fox Theater building. As you may already know, the report recommends abating and deconstructing the Fox Theater as soon as feasibly possible.

The consultant team was led by SlaterPaull Architects, an architectural firm that specializes in historic preservation. The team also included JVA Engineers, a structural engineering firm, and RLH Engineers, an environmental engineering firm. Main Street selected this team for their expertise in historic building projects.

The team presented their findings to the city council on Tuesday June 24th at a city council work session open to the public. Main Street and city staff also shared these findings with property and business owners and residents in the area immediately surrounding the Fox.

carport & City Parking directly behind -- Updated Electrical and Windows

Commercial:

- 3,000 sq ft, 406 S. 2nd St.
- 1,500 sq ft, 408 S. 2nd St.
- Open Spaces
- Office and/or Retail
- 12 Ft Ceilings
- Original pressed tin panels
- Wired for Internet and Network

Residential

- 3,000 sq ft, 2nd floor w/ lots of open living space
- Modern Kitchen, pantry, island w/ sink, double oven, wine chiller, maple cabinets, Corian counters
- Master Suite, library, sitting room, fireplace, jacuzzi, walk-in closet, walk-in shower
- 5 Bedrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- Laundry Room
- Lots of Skylights
- New Wood Burning Stove
- 500 sq ft Deck

**Contact: Jo at (307)
760-3153**

Retail/Restaurant

The city is now working to find ways to fund and implement the report's findings. To learn more about the report's findings, read on for a **summary**:

This winter, Main Street hired consultants to assess the Fox Theater building in order to determine its structural and environmental state; to determine what, if any, historic material remains to be restored; and to make recommendations on next steps. This is a building that inspires strong opinions: many people believe that it clearly must be torn down, while others feel it is an important historic asset that must be saved. We commissioned this report to find the facts and to create momentum to move forward based on the findings.

The consultants' report tells us that the building cannot be saved and restored. They recommend demolishing the building and abating the hazardous materials at the site as soon as feasibly possible to protect the health and life safety of the residents of Laramie and the adjacent structures. The consultants' based this recommendation on their assessment of environmental hazards (asbestos and pigeon droppings) within the building and structural deficiencies (a partially collapsed roof and un-reinforced concrete walls).

Even deconstructing and abating the building and site poses challenges: the building is mid-block; sandwiched between businesses to the north and south; shares a wall with the building to the north; and has powerlines to the west. The combination of environmental and structural problems creates a chicken-and-egg situation: you can't safely remove the hazardous materials in a standard fashion without first stabilizing the structure, and you can't safely stabilize the structure in a standard fashion without first removing the hazardous materials.

The consultants have suggested a couple of alternative ways of deconstructing and abating the building. Free-standing scaffolding can be built to the north and south, the walls can be demolished by hand until they are level with the adjacent structures, and then the hazardous material can be removed and machinery used to deconstruct the rest of the building. Or, the building to the north can be purchased and also demolished, allowing access from the north (scaffolding to the south could still be necessary). In either case, the process would be completed in a way that contains the environmental contamination within and does not allow it to become airborne.

Main Street selected the SlaterPaull Architecture team largely on the basis of their expertise in historic preservation and work on similar projects. I think they

Prime retail/restaurant space available in Historic Downtown Laramie. On Grand, close to 3rd, high visibility. 3700 square feet with lots of natural light and plenty of North facing windows plus tons of storage or conference room space in the finished basement. Leasing for under the going rate. Call Cyndi at 399-6430.

Chickering Books: Reading July 12

CRAIG JOHNSON, author of ANOTHER MAN'S MOCCASINS A Walt Longmire Mystery, will be at Chickering Bookstore on Wednesday, July 9th, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Chickering Bookstore is located at 203 S. 2nd.

Copper Kettle: Cooking Classes

The Copper Kettle is offering several exciting classes this month. Cooking with Beer Class- Thursday, July 10th (6 to 8:00pm). As Brewfest is approaching it was only logical to put our beer class on tap. Melissa Gray does wonders with left over beer, or beer bought specifically for a certain dish. She is always amazing me with her new beer recipes. Come have a splendid time. No beer tasting here, only making food with the stuff. \$38.00

Thursday Bountiful Feast Mini Classes. We will show you how stretch your grocery dollars and focus on a few of the week worth of recipes that we will give you. Each week is unique and based upon local bargains. These classes are 45 minutes long. Please call to let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly. First class is on Sat. July 12th at 2:00pm. Then starting Thursday July 17th the class will be every Thursday at 5:30 to 6:15pm. Cost is \$30/month or \$7.50 a class.

Help Wanted

Chickering Bookstore is looking for someone to work two afternoons a week. Not a summer position. Call 742-8609 or stop by 203 S. 2nd for more information.

were expecting to come back to us with recommendations about how to save and restore the building, but the facts don't bear this out. We were disappointed to hear the results of this study, but the recommendations are clear: the building needs to be demolished and abated quickly in order to resolve a public safety issue.

Downtown Zoning

Revisions to the regulations on development in Downtown Laramie are being considered.

Currently, Downtown Laramie development is regulated with the same regulations (originally written in the 1960s) that govern development out along east Grand and other commercial districts in town. Revising these regulations for Downtown is meant to make it easier to develop in keeping with Downtown's current historic and pedestrian-friendly character, and harder to develop in a more suburban form that would detract from that character and history. If revised regulations are adopted, current uses and buildings would be grandfathered in.

The city's Community Development Department presented an early draft of the revised regulations at the Railroad Depot last Wednesday, July 2, as well as at last week's Downtown Laramie Business Association (DLBA) meeting.

This revision of the downtown zoning is part of a larger project to update the entire city's zoning code; this is meant to implement the city's Comprehensive Plan, adopted last summer. The Community Development Department is taking comments (supportive or critical); comments are requested by July 16th, although will be accepted after that date as well. Email Randy Hunt at rhunt@cityoflaramie.org or Charles Bloom at cbloom@cityoflaramie.org.

You can find more information on the update and links to current and draft revisions on the city's website by clicking [here](#).

Laramie Main Street will be taking a close look at the revised code and submitting comments; we'll post our comments when they are complete.

An [article](#) in the Boomerang gives more background.

Sculpture Downtown



John Kearney's "Alligator" sculpture is scheduled to be installed Downtown on Wednesday, July 30th.

Kearney's "Alligator" will be placed at the corner of 4th and Grand, on the lawn of the City Hall Annex building. Kearney is a Chicago sculptor known for his fanciful animals constructed from welded car bumpers.

The exhibition of this piece, and others throughout the community, is coordinated with the temporary exhibition of sculpture on the UW campus during the Art Museum's renovation. The exhibition runs from August, 2008 through July, 2009 (some pieces have already been installed; others are scheduled for installation this summer).

To learn more about the artists, their work, and the exhibition itself, read the Museum's [blog](#). This project is being funded in part by a Wyoming Art's Council Community Arts Partners Grant, of which Main Street is a partner.

Historic Walking Tour Brochure

Laramie Main Street has developed a self-guided walking tour of Historic Downtown Laramie. This illustrated brochure will be available for free at Albany County Tourism at 2nd and Custer. If you'd like copies to distribute -- or to take the tour yourself -- please let me know by email at mainstreet@laramiewy.org and I will let you know when they are available.

Other self-guided tours and brochures with information about attractions throughout the county are also being produced. Thank you to the Albany County Tourism Board and Albany County Historic Preservation Board for funding and coordination.

Historic Images of Downtown

Laramie Main Street is printing postcards with historic images of Downtown Laramie. The first printing of four historic images will be out this summer -- look for these at the Laramie Main Street Farmer's Market booth on Fridays!

Thank you to UW's American Heritage Center (AHC) for use of these photographs. If you're interested in seeing more images of historic downtown, visit the American Heritage Center when it re-opens in August after renovations. Visit AHC's [website](#) for more information.

Another great place to view historic images of Downtown Laramie is the Railroad Depot, at 1st and Kearney. This historic building - built in the mid-1920s to replace an earlier Depot that burned down - is open to the public Wednesday afternoons from 1-4PM during the summer.

Jubilee Days: July 4-13, 2008

This weeklong event includes a PRCA rodeo, bull riding, and downtown activities: street dances, free pancake breakfast, Ivinson Street Fair, and a carnival. Activities include:

- the Jubilee Days Parade held on the morning of the 12th
- Ivinson Street Fair, with live music and activities for kids, held 10-6PM on Ivinson between 1st and 2nd Streets
- A Downtown Carnival held at Railroad Depot Park and along 1st Street from July 9th through the 13th. Buy discounted presale carnival tickets at Martindales (721-4100) until 5PM on July 8th. (Streets that will be closed for the Carnival: 1st Street, Kearney to Garfield; Kearney between 1st and 2nd Streets will be closed from July 7th through 13th (½ of Kearney will be left open after setup, starting on the 9th)).
- Downtown Brewfest, on the afternoon of July 12th -- see below for more information
- Rodeo events held throughout the week (many will be located at the Albany County Fairgrounds)

Please visit the Jubilee Days [website](#) for complete event information, tickets, and more.

Downtown Brewfest: July 12th, 1-6pm



- Come Downtown to sample over beers from around the region and the world -- over 20 breweries will be represented.

Held Saturday, July 12th from 1-6PM at UP's Depot Park at 1st and Kearney.

- \$25 for an all day pass and a souvenir tasting mug
- Or, buy \$1 beer samples with a \$5 entry fee
- Live Music
- BBQ provided by the Vedauwoo Fire Department
- A portion of the proceeds will go towards

funding of a new downtown plaza

Hosted by the Downtown Laramie Business Association.

Farmer's Market 2008: Message from the Managers

"The market is looking good this season. We have over 30 vendors, many of the same food vendors and some new crafts and services. Just to name a few favorites: C&R Farms, Grant Family Farms, Robertson's Orchards, Needmore Salsa, ACRES farm, Huck's Kettlecorn, Wag's meats, Fresh Breads and Pastries, Sunflour Bakery, and Hungry Mother Foods (Papardelle's Pasta).

We will have different kids activities each week, with folks from the Art Museum, the Territorial Prison and the Planetarium helping us out with these. We'll begin the season with chair massages from Nina DeMaroney and later we'll have knife sharpening from Richard Lively. We are hoping to have bands lined up for each week- more to come on who these will be.

We appreciate the support from DLBA participating businesses downtown and we hope the owners can find a little time to come out and shop themselves! Just a reminder: Grand Avenue will close to public parking on Fridays at 1:30 and open back up after the market ends at 7PM.

We look forward to a successful market season and seeing some of you at the DLBA booth!

For information, please contact Willa Merry - 307-703-0412, email: willamerry@yahoo.com or Jennifer Horvath, phone 215-219-4322, email: Jennifer_horvath@hotmail.com "

Farmer's Market Fuel Grant

The Wyoming Business Council (WBC) has created the Farmers' Market Fuel Reimbursement Grant to help Wyoming producers offset transportation costs associated with participating in the state's numerous farmers' markets.

Producers travelling 60 miles or more one way can be awarded up to half the federal mileage rate to a maximum of \$1,000 per year. Visit the WBC's website for more information. Or to request an application call Kim Porter at (307) 777-6319 or email her at kim.porter@wybusiness.org

Secret Garden Tour (Proceeds benefit Downtown Plaza)

Tour Five of Laramie's Secret Gardens and the Albany County Courthouse Plaza on July 19th from 9AM - 1PM.

Buy tickets (\$10 each) downtown at the Farmer's Market. (Tickets are also on sale at Ace Hardware, Grand Avenue Nursery, and Windmill Hill Nursery.)

Proceeds go toward landscaping the Downtown Community Plaza at 1st and Grand Street!

Tour organized by the Laramie Garden Club.

Thank you for your continued support of Laramie Main Street and the entire Downtown!

Sincerely,
The Laramie Main Street Program Team

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to mainstreet@laramiewy.org by mainstreet@laramiewy.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Laramie Main Street Program | 313 South 2nd St, Suite B | Laramie | WY | 82070