

# Downtown Missoula Business Improvement District Newsletter

Promoting the Health, Safety, Prosperity, Security and General Welfare of the Inhabitants of the BID



## COVID Resources for the Downtown Community

Throughout the last six months, the Downtown Missoula Partnership (DMP) has worked with its community partners to ensure Downtown businesses have information and access to local, state and national resources. Resources and information can be found on the DMP website at [www.missouladowntown.com](http://www.missouladowntown.com).

With leadership from Destination Missoula, the Safer Missoula program ([www.safermissoula.org](http://www.safermissoula.org)) has provided marketing and communication materials for Missoula-area businesses. The Missoula Economic Partnership (<https://www.missoulapartnership.com/>) has provided weekly roundtable forums to help address community-wide problems, including lack of PPE equipment, need for collateral, and economic projections.

The University of Montana assembled a team of professionals to offer the COVID-19 Business Emergency Assistance & Recovery (BEAR) program for Missoula-based businesses. The BEAR Program (<https://acceleratemon-tana.umt.edu/covid-resource/default.php>) provides tailored support and guidance in a team-oriented environment.

The State of Montana (<https://commerce.mt.gov/Coronavirus-Relief>) has broken out its CARES Act Funding into a variety of programs to help spread the financial support across many different sectors. The state is offering the Montana Loan Deferment Program through the Board of Investments and the Department of Revenue. There are also a variety of Emergency Housing Assistance programs (<https://housing.mt.gov/>) as well as multiple Business Assistance Grants.

The Stabilization Grant through the Montana Coronavirus Relief website provides working capital for small businesses helping to support rent, payroll and other businesses expenses “related to shifts in operations...”. There are eligibility requirements and maximum amounts available. According to the website, priority will be given to “applicants that have not received SBA Payroll Protection Program relief..”

Right here from our office, the Missoula Downtown Foundation raised and redistributed over \$100,000 to Downtown businesses in the last four months. More information on that program can be found on the DMP website.



*Continued on page 2*

Across the country, landlords are working with their tenants one-on-one to provide support and sometimes rent relief or deferral to ensure vibrant businesses don't turn into vacant buildings. Property owners should ensure their tenants know about resources available to them and connect them where appropriate.

It's clear that the current pandemic is a long-game with major impacts projected across the country and through 2021. We must work together and support each other the best we can to reduce the long-term impacts in Missoula.

If you need assistance, advice, or connections, please reach out to John Corwin, DMP Business Development Director, via phone (543-4238) or email (john@missouladowntown.com).



**SCHEMATIC DESIGN PLAN**  
Missoula North Riverside Parks and Trails Plan - Schematic Design 01/15/2020

## North Riverside Parks & Trails Planning Update

The North Riverside Parks and Trails Plan is nearing completion and will seek City Council approval in the fall of 2020. This Plan will help make tomorrow's riverfront even more vibrant, accessible, sustainable, and green. The plan offers detailed design ideas and strategies to enhance the connection, circulation, and programming to the Caras, East Caras, and Bess Reed Parks. For more information regarding the Plan, review the link at <https://www.missouladowntown.com/downtown-master-plan/north-riverside-parks-trails/>.

## Request for Email Addresses

To help us keep you informed with what's happening in Downtown Missoula, it would be helpful to communicate via email. Please submit your contact information, including email address, to John Corwin (john@missouladowntown.com). Your address will not be sold or distributed.

## Ambassador Dave Chrismon Retires

After five years of service to the Downtown community, Dave Chrismon has retired as Missoula's Downtown Ambassador. Ambassador Dave joined the Downtown Missoula Partnership in 2015 as a part-time employee, then moved to the full-time position the following year when Laurie Johnson retired.

Ambassador Dave was exceptional at providing visitor information services to Missoula's guests, and teaching Downtown customers how to use the new parking kiosks and Passport App. As the eyes and ears on the streets, Ambassador Dave did a significant amount of work cleaning up posters, graffiti, and dog waste on the streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks and trails in Downtown Missoula. He also was responsible for distributing information and posters to Downtown businesses, and he represented the



*Ambassador Dave*

DMP on the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission. Dave's calm and joyful approach to assisting people and keeping our common-area spaces cared for will be missed.



*Ambassador Dave with the Mobile Information Kiosk (MIK)*

Ambassador Dave will be greatly missed. Given the current pandemic and the difficulties associated with public engagement, the Ambassador position will remain vacant for now. However, anyone interested

in the position can submit a cover letter, resume and references to the Downtown Missoula Partnership via email (info@missouladowntown.com).

## Downtown Master Plan Update

The 2019 Downtown Master Plan Implementation Team is focused on goals that can be accomplished during the next 12-24 months. Take the opportunity to view the plan at <https://www.missouladowntown.com/downtown-master-plan/missoulas-downtown-master-plan/>.

The Plan emphasizes 5 big ideas:

- Downtown needs to be more than one "Postcard" street,
- Improve mobility, health & safety
- Stay original, stay authentic, be green and create opportunity
- Enhance parks & public spaces, and better utilize the river
- Downtown for Everyone

A reminder: traffic on Higgins Avenue will be disrupted with the Higgins Avenue bridge construction commencing later this year.

## New 2020 Business in Downtown Missoula

New businesses that have recently opened include Crafted Aesthetics, Corwin Galleries, Soup Farm, Bike and Type, Cranky Sam's, Ducrey Chocolate, and Front Street Pizza.

The restaurant Pangea has opened at 223 North Higgins along with its basement companion, speakeasy Stave and Hoop. Liquid Planet moved to 121 W. Broadway, around the corner from its old Higgins location.

The Dram Shop, Big Dipper, Bridge Pizza, and The Trail Head have all expanded to the midtown area with second locations.

Construction continues on the Radio Central building, hotels The Wren and The AC, while Opportunity Bank has been updating its entrance. First Security Bank is moving to 150 W. Broadway from its East Broadway location and Parkside Credit Union purchased and remodeled the first-floor space of the Stewart Title building.

Recent closings include the Downtown Dance Collective, Kettlehouse Northside, Lord's Jewelers, American Tattoo, and Unparalleled Movement.

## Mountain Line Funding Request to Appear on November Ballot

The Missoula Urban Transportation District (MUTD) Board of Directors, governing body of Mountain Line, has decided to move forward with a mill levy increase request this November to support additional, publicly-requested service expansions.

Mountain Line is asking for a mill levy increase of 20 mills, raising approximately \$3 million per year, to:

- Expand weekend service, including adding Sunday bus service for the first time.
- Increase bus frequency on heavily used routes.
- Provide funding to enhance the Zero-Fare program.
- Support the conversion of its fleet from



Mountain Line Electric Bus

All service expansions will benefit both fixed-route riders and seniors and people with disabilities who utilize Mountain Line's Paratransit and Shuttle Van services.

In 2017, Mountain Line underwent an extensive community planning process, which included several public meetings and opportunities for public comment, to inform its 2018 Strategic Plan. The process showed a community desire for expanded bus service and support to ensure Mountain Line can continue providing important public transportation to help employees get to work, students get to school and seniors and people with disabilities remain independent and active.

Learn more about the mill levy increase request at [www.mountainline.com/mill-levy](http://www.mountainline.com/mill-levy).

## BID Expanding the DDPO Program

The Dedicated Downtown Policing Program was created by the Downtown BID in 2009 in partnership with the Missoula Police Department in response to concerns about safety from downtown businesses and customers. Modeled after other community policing programs in Downtown districts, the program has focused on building connections and relationships among the downtown community and its visitors and helping people connect to services.



Officer Randy Krastel

In conjunction with Missoula's investments in new facilities for the Missoula Food Bank, the Poverello Center and the Salvation Army, the DDPO has worked closely with the Homeless Outreach Team, Western Montana Mental Health Center and many others to help reduce panhandling, solicitation, and homelessness in Downtown. Last year Officer Randy Krastel helped 16 individuals get home to their families, into treatment, or into permanent housing. He was named the Downtown Employee of the Year for 2019 for his efforts.

Last summer the Missoula Police Department applied for and received a community policing grant to help expand the Downtown program, and both the BID and the MPD are ready to move forward with hiring the second officer. With the goal of having seven-day-a-week service, the BID and MPD are hoping to have the second position filled and in training this October.

Questions about the DDPO program can be directed to Linda McCarthy ([linda@missouladowntown.com](mailto:linda@missouladowntown.com)) or Officer Randy Krastel ([krastelr@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:krastelr@ci.missoula.mt.us)).



Stevie Adams, Clean Team

## Clean Team Update

The BID Clean Team has remained very active during the pandemic. The Team has spent a total of 2,057 hours year to date, or just under 300 hours per month working in the downtown area. Their tasks include cleaning and weeding the tree wells and cleaning sidewalks and alleys. They have removed nearly 70 yards of bagged garbage. They also clean parking kiosks, return shopping carts, and remove posters.



218 E Main St, Suite C  
 Missoula, MT 59802  
 Ph: 406.543.4238  
 MissoulaDowntown.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Permit No. 74  
 Missoula, MT 59801



Left: Charlie Beaton, Right: Karen Sippy

## BID Board Updates: Representing the Interests of Property Owners

After 15 years of service to the BID Board and most of them as President of the Board, Tim France of Worden’s Market has stepped down from the board and is preparing to retire after selling Worden’s Market. France was instrumental in the development of the Downtown Ambassador and Downtown Policing programs, and he always ensured decisions made by the board were in the best interests of the property owners.

Having served as the Vice President of the Board since 2008, Charlie Beaton of Big Dipper was elected President by his peers last spring. Beaton opened Big Dipper in Downtown Missoula in 1995, and he has served on the BID Board since 2006. He has since expanded the ice cream store into Helena, Billings and Midtown Missoula.

Karen Sippy has been appointed to replace Tim France on the BID Board. As a new property owner at 120 North Higgins, Sippy and her husband, Brian, opened the new building in January. Home to Radius Gallery, Relic Gallery, and the Art Vault, the new building also features the innovative alley art mural Allez.

An extraordinary community volunteer, Sippy is the executive Director of Trees for Missoula and serves on the boards of the Grant Creek Trails Association, the Friends of Missoula Parks, the Friends of Grant Creek, the State of Montana Arboretum Committee, the Conservation lands Advisory committee and the North Riverside Parks & Trails Blue Ribbon Committee.

The BID Board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 3 pm (currently on Zoom), and rate-payers are always welcome. For more information, contact Beaton ([charlie@bigdippericecream.com](mailto:charlie@bigdippericecream.com)).



Charlie Beaton	South of the River Rep	(406) 543-5722	<a href="mailto:charlie@bigdippericecream.com">charlie@bigdippericecream.com</a>
Kirk Bodlovic	Zone 2 Rep	(406) 327-1740	<a href="mailto:kirk.bodlovic@providence.org">kirk.bodlovic@providence.org</a>
Ellen Buchanan	City of Missoula Rep	(406) 552-6156	<a href="mailto:ebuchanan@ci.missoula.mt.us">ebuchanan@ci.missoula.mt.us</a>
Dan Cederberg	At-Large Rep	(406) 721-2100	<a href="mailto:dcederberg@cederberg-law.com">dcederberg@cederberg-law.com</a>
Carma Gilligan	Zone 1 Rep	(406) 549-8055	<a href="mailto:bobcat4me@charter.net">bobcat4me@charter.net</a>
Scott Stearns	Large Properties Rep	(406) 543-6646	<a href="mailto:sstearns@boonekarlberg.com">sstearns@boonekarlberg.com</a>
Karen Sippy	Small Properties Rep	(406) 327-8817	<a href="mailto:ksippy66@gmail.com">ksippy66@gmail.com</a>