



P R E S S R E L E A S E

**City of Leavenworth
100 N. 5th Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048**

Contact: Megan Gilliland, (913) 680-2610

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAIN STREET PROVIDES QUARTERLY UPDATE TO COMMISSION

Wendy Scheidt with the Main Street program recently provided a quarterly update to the Leavenworth City Commission. The program has seen many successes in the previous years and there are many misconceptions about the downtown area that need to be addressed. Some of the statistics she provided in her latest presentation show great involvement between the merchants and an increased amount of events and promotions occurring in downtown Leavenworth.

In her presentation, Mrs. Scheidt presented the following information. To find out more about the Leavenworth Main Street Program, please visit www.leavenworthmainstreet.com.

- The 2009 “Leavenworth Home and Garden Show” was held in March and was sponsored by Leavenworth Main Street. The event was held at the Riverfront Community Center and highlighted local businesses and merchants who provide services and products tailored to lawn, landscaping, home repair, remodeling and alike services. Attendees at the show were not just from Leavenworth – the Kansas City Metropolitan area responded to the show and over 650 gate tickets were sold for the two-day event.
- For 2009 alone, Leavenworth Main Street was successful in capturing \$12,000 in Incentive Without Walls Funding (IWW) for High Noon Saloon (the funding was in the form of a no-interest loan). The IWW program is sponsored through the Kansas Department of Commerce and is available to Main Street businesses throughout Kansas. In 2008, Leavenworth Main Street secured \$47,256 in IWW funding; these funds were leveraged with \$342,480 in private funds to invest in our local businesses. In addition, Main Street was successful in garnering an \$18,000 no-interest loan from the Network Kansas Program for High Noon Saloon’s new micro canning expansion. *The total investment in downtown Leavenworth businesses from private and public funding in 2008 was \$869,737.*
- New businesses in the downtown for the first quarter of the year include Overlooked Antiques (406 Delaware), Candle Queen (702 Cherokee), Dix and Son Delaware Deals (409 Delaware). All told, since 2007, 13 new businesses have been opened, and are still operating, in the downtown. Christy’s Closet closed due to the owner’s family being relocated and Level 4 Engineering is considering consolidating offices. *In recent years, Leavenworth’s downtown has seen more businesses opening versus businesses closing.*
- Four businesses have relocated their shops in the downtown. Dr. Joe Jones purchased a building at 413 Cherokee and has renovated the building for his business. Quilter’s Quarters moved from the 200 block of Delaware to a larger location at 5th and Delaware. Scrivner’s moved from the 700 block of Cherokee to 605 Shawnee, and, Graham Cakes expanded her business and now operates a storefront at 227 Cherokee. In 2008, Hart’s Paint and Decorating added four loft units above the retail location and in 2009; he expanded his business footprint with the addition of a warehouse facility on Third Street.

- Several businesses in downtown Leavenworth underwent renovation in 2008/2009. The Corner Pharmacy installed state-of-the-art HVAC systems in the building at 5th and Delaware. Ron Booth was also awarded a grant for this project from the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Meredith Timmons' building in the 600 block of Delaware received an IWW grant for new roofing and she installed new windows, rebuilt the garage in back and added an interior back stairway. The Candle Queen's interior redesign included new painting and refinished hardwood floors.
- Within the downtown, Leavenworth Main Street is consistently offering residents reasons, in addition to shopping, to come downtown. The Easter Bonnet Parade on April 11 was a success and over 400 people came to the Riverfront Community Center afterward for an afternoon of games and family fun. The Main Street "Leavenworth Live" summer concert series will kick off in May and continue through September. On May 2, the Farmers' Market and the Haymarket Flea Market will begin. Main Street is offering their 2nd annual Downtown Loft Tour from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day as well. Details on all of these events are available online at www.leavenworthmainstreet.com.
- In October this year, Leavenworth Main Street will host the Kansas Main Street Conference. Hundreds of Main Street members will converge on Leavenworth to see the great things happening in the "First City of Kansas."

Come downtown and see all of the great projects going on. This spring, the Haymarket Square open-air structure will be finished, the Delaware Streetscape Project will be finished and the Three Mile Creek Trail will be open for all of our citizens to enjoy. The downtown is energized, unique and a great place to visit and shop. There are so many great events, shops, products and services available locally – shop local and keep your sales tax working for you in Leavenworth!

###