



# *The Downtowner*

## *Newsletter*

*Washington Court House, Ohio*

*Summer 2011*  
*Page 1 of 2*

### *First Fridays – Party on the Patio*

Music, food, and entertainment is on tap for the first Fridays in July, August, and September in downtown Washington Court House. *Party on the Patio* will take place in the alley between Oscar's and Portraits by Brad. Visitors may bring a chair and enjoy an evening of free entertainment from 6-9pm. Sponsors for First Fridays are Sugar Creek Packing, Fayette Travel & Tourism, and Parrett Insurance. For more information visit the APD website at [www.apdwcho.com](http://www.apdwcho.com)

### *City Installs*

With the limited parking available on Court Street, shoppers often circle the block looking for a space. This will be a thing of the past, thanks to a recent City Council decision. APD suggested that signs be installed on Court Street directing people to the free municipal parking lots. Council agreed, the signs have been installed.

### *APD Matures and Continues to Grow*

The Alliance for a Prosperous Downtown was incorporated in 1988 in order to develop and revitalize downtown. Within a few years, the Scarecrow Festival was created to promote the downtown and draw visitors, thereby increasing revenue for stores and businesses. As the Festival grew, the demand on APD's resources was stretched beyond what was available. The last Scarecrow Festival was held in 2008.

Starting in 2009, the APD Board made the decision to move in a different direction. Smaller one-day events were planned such as the Arts & Culture Fest, BBQ & Boogie Fest, and A Court House Christmas.

Increased membership allowed the Board to initiate Downtown Improvement Grants for sprucing up storefronts and building exteriors. Members were eligible for reimbursement of expenses with minimum paperwork.

The Adopt-a-Window program to decorate vacant storefronts, and Clean Sweep Day have added to the vitality and attractiveness of downtown. The APD Board works closely with City Council to implement ideas that benefit all. The new street banners, benches, and signs for parking are all examples of a cooperative partnership.

Even in these challenging economic times, the APD Board is using their resources wisely to promote and revitalize our historic downtown. Your membership and support is important to our continued success.

### *Clean Sweep Day*

Twenty volunteers swept up 12 bags of trash in the downtown area on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The City Street Department and Municipal Court provided workers. Fayette Art, Merrill Lynch, and Deblin Design, and Council Member Ben Roby and his wife Debbie also participated. Thanks to Kirkpatrick's Funeral Home for their sponsorship and to all who helped keep our downtown clean and attractive.

