

MAIN STREET NEWS & VIEWS

Main Street Bowie - 201-A Walnut - Bowie, TX 76230 - 940-872-6246

MAIN STREET BOWIE WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Where can you go to find out what Main Street Bowie is all about? Check out www.mainstreetbowietx.com!



The new website includes Main Street Bowie's current Work Plan and descriptions of committees. You'll also find a calendar of upcoming activities, as well as pages dedicated to Main Street sponsored festivals and promotions. And in case you've missed one of our monthly newsletters, you can go to the website and read archived copies.



WELCOME TO NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We would like to welcome our newest staff member, Shannon Skiles, who serves as Administrative Assistant for the City of Bowie's Economic Development Department. Shannon is a native of Charleston, WV, and obtained her B.A. in History from Marshall University in Huntington, WV in 2004. In 2005, she attended Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, and graduated with honors with an M.A. in History with an emphasis in Museum Studies.

She has experience in coordinating events and fundraising, having developed and implemented several educational and entertainment-based programs for the Youngstown Historical Center. She also served as President of the Student Society for Applied History, an organization that emphasized and promoted historic sites and historic preservation efforts in Youngstown.

After graduating from YSU, Shannon spent six months in London, England working for London South Bank University. She enjoys working with the community and local businesses, exclaiming, "I'm thrilled to be here. Bowie has such a great personality!"

Shannon will provide a variety of staff support for Main Street Bowie committees and projects, as well as other economic development activities. Stop by the office at 201-A Walnut in downtown Bowie and welcome her, or send her an e-mail at sskiles@cityofbowietx.com.

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MAIN STREET NEWS & VIEWS

MAIN STREET DESIGN TIPS...Local Permits & Regulations

A Monthly Message from Susan Campbell, Main Street Bowie Coordinator

As you are planning design improvements for your building, it is important that you contact the **City of Bowie's Building Official, David Rainey**, at City Hall (872-1114) to discuss applicable local permits and codes.

Codes are construction standards that cities use to protect your safety and the health and safety of the public. The City of Bowie uses the International Building Code.

Before you renovate a building, you must have all of the appropriate City of Bowie construction permits. These permits, along with inspections of the work done, verify that you and/or your contractor are following the standards in the International Building Code.

Generally, cosmetic improvements, such as painting, will not require permits. Work that affects the building structure or fire safety, such as roof repairs, attaching a new awning to your building, or installing a new water heater, **will** require permits.

The key is to schedule a pre-construction meeting with the Building Official in the planning stage of the project, BEFORE you begin construction.

If permits are required, general construction plans must be submitted when you or your contractor apply for a building permit. The plans and specifications must adequately describe the work that is going to be done. In some cases, an architect or engineer may be required to submit these plans; however, small remodels can generally be designed by you or your contractor.

Restaurants or food service operations will require plans and specifications for grease traps, floor drains, vent hoods and exhaust ducts. These plumbing and mechanical plans must be designed by an architect, engineer, or your plumbing or mechanical contractor.

The following are the different types of construction permits:

Building Permit

This permit allows general construction, remodeling or alteration of the structural part of the building to begin. Items such as ceiling replacement, installation of walls, doors, windows or other general building repairs are covered by the building permit. You may apply for this permit if you are doing the general construction work; however, if a general contractor is doing the work, he must obtain this permit. Unless the work is minor in nature or you are

skilled in general construction, we encourage you to contract a licensed general contractor.

Electrical Permit

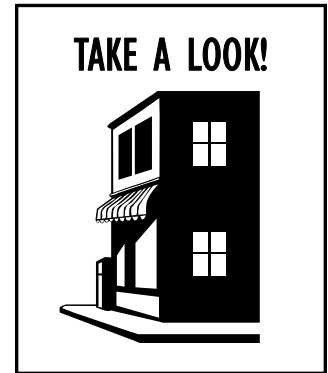
This permit allows electrical work to begin. Only a master electrician licensed by the City of Bowie may apply for the electrical permit, and only that electrician or other licensed electricians working under his supervision can do the electrical work.

Plumbing Permit

This permit allows any plumbing work to begin. Installation or repair of plumbing fixtures, drain and vent lines, water heaters and gas lines are examples of work that may be done under the plumbing permit. Only a master plumber, licensed by the State of Texas, registered and bonded by the City of Bowie can apply for this permit. Only that plumber or other licensed plumbers working under his supervision can do this plumbing work.

Mechanical Permit

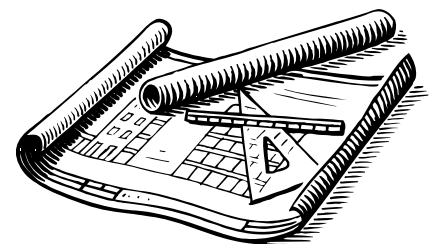
This permit allows all central heating and air conditioning work to begin. Also included in mechanical work are refrigeration systems (walk-in coolers, etc.), vent hoods and other exhaust systems. Only an air conditioning and refrigeration contractor, licensed by the State of



Texas and registered with the City of Bowie can legally perform this work. That contractor or his authorized representative may apply for the permit.

Permit Fees

All permit fees are collected when the permit application is approved. Building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical permit fees are paid by each contractor that is doing their part of the work. These fees vary considerably according to the scope of the work, so be sure to contact the City of Bowie for information on current fees.



MONEY MATTERS



Excerpt from an article by Bibeka Shrestha, Staff Writer for Smoky Mountain News

EXPERT OFFERS TIPS TO KEEP DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES KICKING

Small business expert Tom Shay told local store owners in Franklin, Sylva and Waynesville that recessions are good for one thing: weeding out the weak.

"A recession is a wonderful thing," said Shay. "It clears the landscape."

At the same time, Shay doesn't advocate a cutthroat approach when it comes to keeping downtown alive. During a presentation in downtown Waynesville last week, he advised small businesses to work together.

Shay, who has 25 years of experience in family business, was brought to the three towns to offer expert advice to local entrepreneurs to help them prosper in rough economic times.

One of Shay's tips was to become actively involved with the downtown association, speaking up at meetings and providing input as events are organized and promoted.

"When the vote's taken, shut up and participate," said Shay, prompting

applause from some audience members.

Charlie Trump, who co-owns Olde Brick House Country Store in Waynesville, said he always sees the same six or seven people at Downtown Waynesville Association meetings.

"If more people would come, we would have more of a voice," said Trump.

Shay said he would also like to see small business owners offering their own expert advice to each other.

For example, Shay asked Edward Sullivan, co-owner of The Chocolate Bear in Waynesville, to offer his decades of branding and design experience to area businesses that need it.

Sullivan said he has already done so in the past, but he thinks the ultimate key is for a business to care deeply about presentation.

"You get out of it what you put in it," said Sullivan. "I think it shows here how much effort we put into the store."

Shay's other advice included keeping in constant contact with existing customers through e-mails or postcards, looking for new opportunities as other businesses close, letting go of unproductive employees to take advantage of a bigger job pool, predicting monthly profit and loss a year out in advance, and continuing advertising even in tough times.

"Stopping your advertising to save your money is like stopping your clock so that you can save time," Shay said.

Shay also advised storeowners to not allow gloomy news in the media to dictate their business plan.

Despite Shay's claims that he was not a motivational speaker, he ended the presentation with an adage that reflected a positive way of viewing the recession: "It's not about waiting for the storm to pass; it is about learning to dance in the rain."

Business Tool Kit Topics

A Series of FREE Monthly Workshops & Networking Events on the 2nd Thursday of the month

Thursday, October 8, 2009 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Legend Bank Community Room
307 N. Mason - Downtown Bowie

TOPIC: Small Business Tool Kit

An overview of the *Small Business Tool Kit* resource guide compiled by Main Street Bowie. No reservations required!



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UPCOMING MAIN STREET EVENTS...

October 5 - Main Street Promotions Committee - Bowie Library—5:30 pm

October 8 - Business Tool Kit Topics - 8 am - Small Business Tool Kit Guide

October 10 & 11 - Second Monday Trade Days - Pelham Park and Trade City

October 19 - Main Street Promotions Committee - Bowie Library—5:30 pm

October 26 - Main Street Economic Development Committee - Main Street Office - 6 pm

October 27 - Hanging of the Green Inventory (Christmas Decorations) - City Auditorium - 1:30 pm

November 2 - Main Street Board Meeting - Main Street Office - 6 pm

November 7-8 - Second Monday Trade Days - Pelham Park and Trade City

November 9 - Main Street Promotions Committee - Bowie Library - 5:30 pm

November 14 - Hanging of the Green - 9 am-1 pm

November 26-27 - Office closed for Thanksgiving

November 30-December 2 - Decorating for Santa's House - Edward's Collision

December 5 - Santa's House - Edward's Collision - 11 am-2 pm

December 5 - Fantasy of Lights Christmas Parade - Downtown Bowie - 7 pm



Thank you for reading! We hope you have found this month's newsletter interesting and helpful.

If you have any suggestions for the following months, please let us know by email or give us a call.

Also, if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically via e-mail, please contact us with your e-mail address.

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