



# Historic Delano News

## September 2010

**Promoting Delano's past, present & future**

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### Delano - A Recent History

*"Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." - Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)*

Fifteen years ago, very few people in Wichita had ever heard of Delano. The area was widely referred to as "West Wichita," the "West Bank" or occasionally "West Douglas." The streets were in disrepair, many of the buildings were vacant and the district was in decline.

A small group of people set out to change that. The River West Merchants Association changed its name to the **Delano Business Association**. Soon after, the **Delano Neighborhood and Clergy Associations** were created. The three groups formed an alliance and asked the City for help in creating a revitalization plan for the district.

Work began in 1999 and involved months of meetings and public presentations which hundreds of people attended. In the spring of 2001, after approval by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, the City adopted the **Delano Neighborhood Revitalization Plan** as an amendment to the **Wichita - Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan**.

The first order of business was rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure. Seneca Street was redesigned as a divided boulevard to be a gateway to the Museums on the River. Douglas Avenue was given a brand new streetscape to be the centerpiece of the business district. Both projects also involved input from hundreds of Delano stakeholders.

In the fall of 2003, a celebration was held to show off the new **Douglas Avenue Streetscape** and introduce the rest of Wichita to the new Delano. Thousands of people from all across the region attended the event and left with a new appreciation for what was once a forgotten neighborhood.

All of this attention has been good for Delano. Today most of the vacant storefronts are filled and when you mention Delano to someone they immediately know where it is. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the people who worked so hard to "put Delano on the map."

### Mark Your Calendars

#### *Planning for the Holidays*

**Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010 - 6:00 PM**  
**Central Plains Novelty**  
**905 W. Douglas**

At this meeting we will be coordinating plans for the **Christmas Parade, Holiday Open House** and **Holiday Decor Contest** which will happen **Saturday, December 4th**.

We will also be discussing holiday promotions.

#### *Delano Bicycle Parking Plan*

**Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010 - 7:00 PM**  
**West Side Christian Church**  
**1819 W. Douglas**

Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting. The Delano West Douglas Bicycle Parking Plan will be presented for public comment on the type and location of bicycle racks to be placed along the Douglas Avenue Streetscape.

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## Changes for Special Events

The City of Wichita is proposing changes in the requirements for parades and special events. A meeting was held with event coordinators on August 25th to discuss the proposed changes. These new rules will have a definite impact on the number and types of events in Delano.

The two changes with the biggest impact will be increases in the cost of permits for events and in the requirements for security. Currently, parade permits are \$15 and the City provides security. Starting January 1st, the permits will be \$50 and security will be charged to the event at a cost of \$30 / hour per officer, with a minimum of 4 hours.

With the cost of necessary amenities and event promotion added in, even a simple parade will cost a minimum of \$3,000. Larger events will cost even more, depending on how many police officers the City decides the event will require.

In a practical sense, what this all means is that most events will require a sponsor (or several). This year's Christmas Parade will not be affected by the new rules, but the St. Patrick's Parade in March will need sponsors signed up by the end of January if it is to continue.

### Ghost Stories of Historic Delano

The 3rd Annual Ghost Stories of Historic Delano will be held on **Thursday, October 7th**. This year there will be 8 stops on the tour.

Once again, the fun starts at **Lawrence-Dumont Stadium** with a tour of their offices and dugouts. The **Wichita Paranormal Research Society** will be on hand to show off some of their equipment and tell about their investigations.

From the stadium, people may then walk, drive or catch a ride on the **River City Trolley** to visit each of the locations on the tour.

Dancers from **Amira's Dance Productions** will be in several places to entertain visitors dressed up as ghosts, ghouls and other scary things.

## Holiday Planning

With all the hot weather we have been having it's hard to believe that it's time to start planning for the holidays. On **Tuesday, September 14th** we will have a meeting to coordinate plans for the **Christmas Parade**, the **Holiday Open House** and the **Holiday Decor Contest**.

We will also be discussing how we will promote these events. Anyone interested in helping with holiday promotions is encouraged to attend.

### Second Saturday Shopping Event

There are 20 Delano businesses signed up for the Second Saturday event for the 4th quarter. The event is designed to showcase the shopping districts along Douglas - **Delano, Downtown, Old Town** and the **Douglas Design District** - with a focus on encouraging people to shop local

If you are one of the participating businesses you can expect to receive your posters, brochures and shopping bags before the end of September. If you missed out on the 4th quarter promotion, we will be signing up for the 1st quarter of 2011 in November.

### Bicycle Parking Plan

The Delano West Douglas Bicycle Parking Plan is ready for public comments. The draft plan will be displayed at the **September 21st** meeting of the **Delano Neighborhood Association**.

The meeting is at **West Side Christian Church** and will begin at **7:00 p.m.** There is a pot-luck dinner beginning at 6:30 which you are welcome to attend.

### Riverfest Bicycle Event in Delano

Representatives from Delano and several of the bicycle groups in town have been working on a bicycle event to be held on the second Saturday of **Riverfest 2011**. We have already met with **Wichita Festivals, Inc.** and will be formalizing our plans in the next couple of months.