



Historic Delano News

January 2011

Promoting Delano's past, present & future

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January is named for the Roman god Janus who had two faces so that he could see both the past and the future. He was a god of gateways and beginnings. It is appropriate then to review the past year and look towards the one ahead of us.

2010 in Review

Delano's familiar events were back in 2010: The **St. Patrick's Parade**, **Ghost Stories of Historic Delano**, **Rumble in Delano** and **Christmas in Historic Delano**. Delano also played host to parts of the **Black Top Nationals** car show.

Two memorable events from 2010 include the release of a rehabilitated Bald Eagle in February from the west bank of the Arkansas River and "**The Great Delano Flood**" in December when a water main burst under Douglas at Handley.

Historic Delano Update - Nancy's segment on KCTU-TV43 over the lunch hour - continues to promote Delano's history and current events. The 2010 **Visitors Guide** was distributed in May and the web site got a minor make-over.

There were also a lot of beginnings in 2010. The **Delano Business Association** was re-created and just completed its first year. Congratulations to **Chris Woolfolk** of **Horizon Messaging** for being elected as their President for 2011!

A steering committee was formed to create the **Delano Community Development Corporation** to coordinate efforts between the various Delano groups on certain long-range projects for Delano.

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Mark Your Calendars

Planning for the St. Patrick's Parade

**Tuesday, February 1, 2011
Central Plains Novelty
905 W. Douglas
6:00 p.m.**

It's that time of year again!
The St. Patrick's Parade is scheduled for
Saturday, March 12th at High Noon.

We have been talking with some of the Irish groups and there is a desire to create an Irish festival around the parade. We will be discussing that possibility and what it would take to make it happen.

Whether or not there is an Irish Festival, the **St. Patrick's 5k Run/Walk** will return this year. The St. Patrick's Run/Walk is organized by the **Wichita Caledonian Pipes and Drums**.

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The new **Delano Community Farmers' Market** had a very successful first year and is making plans to be even bigger and better for 2011. The **Delano Community Garden** was given a used garden shed and built a compost bin this year.

Shop Douglas, Inc. was formed so that **Delano, Downtown, Old Town** and the **Douglas Design District** could all work together on projects like **"I Bike Douglas"** and **2nd Saturday**.

Wichita Festivals approached us about creating a Delano event for **Riverfest**. The event will be a bicycle event and will be called **Pedal Mania!** It will be on the last Saturday of **Riverfest 2011**.

The City of Wichita formed a citizens planning committee to create the **Delano-West Douglas Avenue Bicycle Parking Plan**. The plan is to install bicycle racks along Douglas from McLean to Vine, phased in over several years.

We held our second **Welcome to Delano Mixer** at the Shamrock Lounge in July. It was very well attended and those in attendance all thought that we should hold more of these mixers.

Over 50 new businesses opened in 2010 - a few more than in 2009 but about average - and there were also 43 businesses which closed down. See the chart below for more Delano statistics.

Delano by the Numbers	2009	2010
Total Businesses (12/31)	292	307
2 bus. in single location	11	17
# of businesses opened	52	53
# of businesses closed	45	41
Open & close same year	1	5
Vacant Overall (all vacancies in district)	71	57 (16.4%)
Vacant ("Downtown") Douglas: McLean-Seneca	19	13 (14.3%)

Looking Ahead to 2011

It appears that 2011 will be another busy year! The **St. Patrick's & Christmas Parades** are still planned, although there may need to be some changes due to a proposed ordinance that the City is considering. If passed in it's current form, the ordinance would drastically increase the costs of putting on events like these.

We have discussed the idea of a day-long event for St. Patrick's with the parade as just a part of an Irish festival. We think that it will be easier to find sponsors for a larger event.

The **Ghost Stories of Historic Delano** tour will not be affected by the new ordinance, since it does not require Wichita police for security.

We are working on the **2011 Visitor's Guide** and plan to have it ready for distribution in April. We will also be updating the web site. Advertising space is available in the guide and on the web.

The **Delano Community Garden** is applying for a grant to help build the fence they have been wanting, and hopes to have it's own water line installed so the garden won't have to use water from the Senior Center.

The **Delano Community Farmers' Market** will return with more entertainment, demonstrations and lots of fresh produce, eggs, bread and more.

This year's **I Bike Douglas** event is scheduled for May 21st and **Pedal Mania** will be June 11th. The plan for bike racks along Douglas will go to the City Council in February and if approved, we might see the first bike racks as early as this fall.

The **Delano Neighborhood Association** will hold it's annual **Delano-wide Garage Sale** and **Delano Clean-up Day** in June.

Finally, we are talking with the **Delano Business Association** and the **Delano CDC** about getting banners and Christmas lights this year.

Happy New Year! - Jim & Nancy