



Clinton
Downtown
Partnership
News

Spring 2008

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George M. Curtis Mansion

Many "old houses" have disappeared, victims of fire, decay and neglect. Of those remaining, few can compare with the elegance of a bygone era reflected in the George M. Curtis mansion, located at 420 5th Avenue South. George M. Curtis was one of the founders of the Curtis Brothers Company in 1866. The company is well known to be the first company to install glass in the window sash at the factory, instead of onsite. The Curtis family often boasted dining parties and danced on the third floor in the ballroom. The Curtis family not only contributed much to Clinton's social life, but George was twice elected to the United States Congress and was a prominent figure in local civic affairs.

The massive ginger bread style home, properly known as Queen Anne style was constructed in late 1883. Curtis designed most of the home himself. The addition of the coach house was in 1885. Curtis selected only the finest woods from his mills in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and craftsmen were brought from Europe.



Original view of Curtis home (top left) Current view (top right), staircase (above), parlor fireplace (below)



They carved and polished to perfection the woodwork, mantles, doors and wainscoting, and cabinet makers and artisans labored on the trim.

The elegant oak staircase bears the workmanship of these master craftsmen who carved into the rich wood such details as a delicate flower and the fanned tail of a peacock. Many workers stayed after and were employed with the Curtis Co. The house also boasts over 10 elaborate fireplaces; the most unusual is the larger fireplace in the parlor. It features a split chimney with a stained glass window in the center. It poses a puzzling question as to how the glass could survive in that position for over 100 years and not succumb to the heat of the chimney. The white statue of a young woman was selected by the Curtis family and remains in its chosen spot on the mantle still to this day.

The Clinton Women's Club purchased the mansion in 1925, and it is responsible for acquiring state recognition for the building for the National Registry status. They graciously open the massive hand-carved oak doors of the mansion for tours, meetings, weddings etc. They will be open every Wednesday after Memorial Day from 1-4, or for information contact (563)242-8556.



The Downtown Facade Program

The Downtown Partnership's Facade program provides matching funds to commercial property owners whose buildings are in the Downtown Clinton Self-Supporting Municipal Improvement District (SSMID). Priority is given to structures which are determined to be of primary historical significance to the district and projects which will render high impact in improving the appearance of the building.

The program operates on a reimbursement basis with funds disbursed by the City of Clinton and Downtown Partnership after all authorized work is approved and completed. Reimbursement is limited to 33% of the documented cost of the improvements, not to exceed \$5,000 on any one building. Projects must be completed within 9 months of being approved for funding.

Please contact the Downtown Partnership for an application and eligibility requirements at 721 South 2nd Street, or the City Planning Department, 611 South 3rd Street.

Marketing Co-op A Success!

Watch CNN, The Weather Channel, Lifetime and Fox News for Clinton's newest Downtown commercial. Thank you to all those businesses who participated: Banner Home Furnishings, Bizzy B Scrubs, Boegel's Mens Wear, Brown's Shoe Fit, Burke Florist LLC, Elegance Express, Dave Fuller Kitchen & Design Center, Galaxy Deli, Gateway Monogram, Gifts Galore, Grandmother's Soul Catering & Carry-out, Guzzardo's Hallmark Shop, Happy Joe's, J&D Steakhouse, McGraw Accounting & Tax Service, Napa, Nutrition Plus, Patrick's Steakhouse, The Corner Deli, Van Kampen Spa and Couples Massage, Wiseguys Extreme Sports, YMCA, YWCA and Zirkelbach Home Appliances.

Parking Space Available

The Clinton Downtown Partnership's parking lot at the corner of 2nd Street and 6th Avenue South has 5 spaces available. For lease information call 242-5702.

What's New?

Biz after 5

Biz after 5 will be held at The Curtis Mansion on April 16, 2008. Hosted by the Clinton Women's Club at 420 5th Avenue South, 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

New Business

Pinney Printing relocated to 318 South 2nd Street.

"Our Place" opened on March 1st located at 127 6th Avenue South.



Night Glow June 19th

On June 19th the Downtown will host the Balloons in June Night Glow! Featuring a live DJ, 50/50 raffle drawing, kids activities, face painting, and sidewalk drawing. There will be food vendors and many more activities! There are several sponsorship levels available for this event! If you would like to get involved, contact the Downtown Partnership at downtown@clintonia.com.

Upcoming Events:

April:

- *11th Cultural & Entertainment District 8:00 am- Historical Society
- *13th-19th Library Week
- *12th Red Cross Classes at YWCA 10:00 am-3:00 pm
- *16th Downtown Partnership Events Committee 8:00 am- Corner Deli
- *16th SSMID Task Force 11:00 am-Patrick's Steakhouse
- *16th BIZ after 5 at the Curtis Mansion
- *17th *Grass Between The Rails* at the Clinton Public Library 7:00 pm
- *19th Prairie Party at YWCA Lafayette House 10:00 am and 1:00 pm
- *23rd Alive After 5-Banner Home Furnishings 5:00 pm -7:00 pm

May:

- *6th Downtown Planning & Design Committee 7:30 am-CACC
- *9th Cultural & Entertainment District 8:00 am-Historical Society
- *14th Red Cross Classes at YWCA 5:00pm-9:00pm
- *20th Downtown Partnership Board Meeting 7:30 am-CACC
- *21st Downtown Partnership Events Committee 8:00 am- TBA

June:

- *2nd Red Cross Classes at YWCA 10:00 am-3:00 pm
- *3rd Downtown Planning & Design Committee 7:30 am-CACC
- *13th Cultural & Entertainment District 8:00 am-Historical Society
- *18th Downtown Partnership Events Committee 8:00 am-TBA
- *19th Downtown Partnership presents the Downtown Night Glow-6-10

If you would like to get involved with any committee or event for the Downtown Partnership please contact Jennifer Lee at downtown@clintonia.com

First Impressions Are Lasting

Your visual merchandising efforts are aimed at two main goals. The first is getting "passers by" to enter your store, who, otherwise would not have. The other main goal is to convert customers that are browsing your store into purchasers of your products.

First impressions are lasting. Therefore, your storefront should be visually pleasing, clean and designed to appeal to your target demographic. If you own a business with an office or retail storefront, the image the store has reflects on you and your business. If people are turned off by unsightly messes, dirty windows and floors, disorganized overstocked shelves, do you think they will come back or recommend people to your store? Here are a few basic spring cleaning ideas for you to review and implement in your business.

1--Wash the windows, create a clean and inviting entrance way into your store by sweeping and cleaning any dirt or build up on the sidewalk.

2--Clean your floors and baseboards and spot-clean the walls. Check for cobwebs in the corners and clean your light fixtures, too, especially in front display windows.

3--Clean your computer and office equipment surfaces with a damp cloth to remove dust. Clean underneath equipment.

4--Remove any clutter the customer can see like post-it notes or other out-of-date reminders you have stuck to your monitor or bulletin board.

5--Dust your bookshelves and merchandise shelves.

6--Stand outside your business and observe like you were seeing it for the first time, what is your first impression?



Clinton In Motion

The Gateway Area Cultural Alliance is proud to announce their "Clinton in Motion" Mural project located within the Cultural & Entertainment District. The project will include 2 murals of past scenes of Clinton. The Clinton Historical Society Wall will get a mural of the river view back in the lumber days, including the old bridges, lumber mill, tug boats pushing logs and several other scenes on the river. Be looking for these projects to be completed early summer.



The Downtown Partnership's mission is in keeping the enhancement of Clinton's Downtown a high priority in the community and to stimulate action focusing on Downtown revitalization.

Business Spotlights



Elegance Express



Located within the Fifth Avenue Mall at 243 5th Ave South, Elegance Express is one of Clinton's best kept secrets when shopping for bridal and prom wear. This consignment store offers a wide variety of prom dresses, wedding gowns, women and children's clothing, shoes and her famous .49 cent rack. Debra Swanson, owner since August 2003, is always in search of high-quality, gently used items.

This year however is her first year to offer brand new prom dresses with a 20% off discount on designers like: Maggie Sottero, Jessica McClintock, Flirt, Xcite and Xtreme, as well as her high-quality consigned ones. Elegance Express also boasts beautiful cosmetic jewelry, mothers of the bride dresses and many choices of business dress wear. The store hours are Tues-Fri 10-5 and Sat 10-3, or call 242-1680 for an appointment.



Galaxy Deli



Galaxy Deli, located at 310 South 2nd Street is a great place to get a delicious sub sandwich, a wrap or salad with a bowl of homemade soup on the side. Owned and operated by Amanda Hagge and family, this outgoing business owner is expanding her menu selections to include: ice-cream, hot food selections, take 'n' bake pizzas and an expanded coffee selection. Amanda has worked in the Downtown since 1990 and has 18 years of deli experience. One of her life long aspirations came true in February 2006 when she opened the doors of Galaxy Deli.

Galaxy Deli's dining room offers wireless internet access (unsecured) for free while enjoying your meal. Watch on their website www.galaxydeli.com for upcoming events like live music, or use their dining room for parties and events. Galaxy Deli can also cater parties ranging up to 500 people with made to order selections.

Amanda also offers baked goods like pies, cookies, muffins and cakes. Their hours are M-Sat 11-8 and Sunday 11-3. They will be happy to deliver your order of \$20.00 or more. So stop by or call (563)242-1111 to enjoy all they have to offer.