



## Fennville Snow Fest

One of the goals of the DDA is to develop free or low-cost events in the downtown throughout the year. In an effort to meet that goal, the Economic Restructuring Committee is planning a series of festivals to be held each season. The first festival will be the Fennville Snow Fest, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 17th.

Events include a snow sculpture contest, ice skating, snowman building contest for children, a chili cook-off, and of course, a parade.

If you would like to help out with the festival planning, please contact Lisa Sheaffer at City Hall at (269) 561-8321. Mother Nature has given us a head-start on the snow. All we need now is YOU!

**All DDA meetings are open to the public and are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings:**

- Jan. 7th—Physical Elements Committee—6 p.m.
- Jan. 7th—DDA—7 p.m.
- Jan. 8th—Promotion Committee—9 a.m.
- Jan. 13th—Economic Restructuring Committee—9 a.m.
- Jan. 13th—Organization Committee—10 a.m.
- Feb. 4th—Physical Elements Committee—6 p.m.
- Feb. 4th—DDA—7 p.m.
- Feb. 5th—Promotion Committee—9 a.m.
- Feb. 10th—Economic Restructuring Committee—9 a.m.
- Feb. 10th—Organization Committee—10 a.m.
- Mar. 4th—Physical Elements Committee—6 p.m.
- Mar. 4th—DDA—7 p.m.
- Mar. 5th—Promotion Committee—9 a.m.
- Mar. 10th—Economic Restructuring Committee—9 a.m.
- Mar. 10th—Organization Committee—10 a.m.

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## Public Announcement & Music System



As you may have already noticed, the public announcement and music system has been put to use this holiday season. Christmas music is once again being played throughout the downtown area. The Chamber used it during its annual Christmas parade and festivities held December 5th.

There have been suggestions to play music in the downtown area throughout the year. The DDA has developed and distributed a survey to the business owners and residents located in the downtown area. It hopes to get a general consensus on what type of music to play, as well as, the days and times during which to play it.

Results of the survey will be available to the participants as well as the general public.

Any questions or concerns regarding the use of the public announcement and music system should be directed to Lisa Sheaffer at City Hall at (269) 561-8321.

## Train Depot

Several DDA members met informally with representatives from M-DOT in late August to determine the feasibility in re-establishing a train stop at the City of Fennville. The train is Amtrak's Pere Marquette line, which runs from Grand Rapids to Chicago stopping at several southwest Michigan cities along the way.

Therese Cody and Mike Bedore of M-DOT outlined the process the train stop request will follow. The first step is to obtain written approval from railroad owner CSX, allowing a platform to be built upon its right-of-way.

The next step would be a diagnostic team review provided by M-DOT. This DTR is a study of the impact the new stop will have on the crossing gates, etc. as well as the overall safety of the crossing. The actual platform construction would then follow, and the Federal Railroad Administration has set guidelines for the length, width and height of the platform.

The DDA has been unable to get past the first step as CSX has proven difficult to contact, but weekly calls continue to be made. The DDA has also been fortunate to enlist the aid of Dale Pushman, owner of Mama's Pizzeria, who has also made requests of his contacts at CSX, and of Patrick Hudson, who was able to get maps showing the location of the original location of the train depot.



The photograph on the far left shows the original train depot which was destroyed in a fire in 1935. It was replaced by the brick depot in 1937 as shown in the near left photograph.

## City Logo & Water Tower

Now that the leaves are off the trees, you should be able to see the city logo on Fennville's water tower located on the south side of M-89.

Utility Service Company, Inc. was contracted in spring of 2007 to perform repairs and routine maintenance, including cleaning and painting, to both the interior and exterior surfaces of the water tower. Unfortunately, the City experienced quality issues with the work performed by the sub-contractor. After Utility Service Company, Inc. resolved all issues, it then offered to paint the City's logo on the exterior of the water tower free of charge.

The logo was painted on the northern side of the water tower this past summer and can easily be seen when approaching Fennville from the north.



# Downtown Art Project

Unexpected delays have prevented an official news release, but the downtown art project has been underway for several months now.

Six sculptures were designed and manufactured by Icon Poly, Inc. and shipped to Fennville in late September.

Local artists painted three of the sculptures in time for display during the Goose Festival.

The contributing artists include Kay Suerth, Casey Boeve, Penny Edmison and the children of Toddler Time at the Children's Museum of Fennville.

Sponsors of the art project are Morgan Insurance Services, Fennville Main Street Market, Fennville DDA, Chemical Bank and Maridrew Properties.

The sculptures are being kept inside during the winter months but will be displayed along Main Street once the weather is warmer.

The artwork will eventually be sold at auction. The date and time of such have yet to be determined by the Promotion Committee.

The committee is also developing a contest involving the art and downtown businesses.





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*A Place to Grow*

DDA BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Elice Menear, Chemical Bank

Vice Chairman Mark Schrock, Maridrew Properties

Treasurer/Secretary Tony Morgan, Morgan Insurance Services

Amy Cook, Member at Large

Margee Overhiser, Fennville Main Street Market

Mayor Dan Rastall, City of Fennville

Claude Rummer, Member at Large

Steve Valkema, Fennville Tire Center

VACANT POSITION—Are you interested in serving on the board?  
Contact Lisa Sheaffer at (269) 561-8321 or [treasurer@fennville.com](mailto:treasurer@fennville.com)

## MISSION: to create a vibrant, functional attractive business district to meet the needs of the community members.

The DDA was established by the City of Fennville in 1993. The goals and objectives of the DDA are as follow:

1. Encourage an improved environment for development and redevelopment of commercial buildings and land.
2. Improve overall parking and circulation.
3. Strive for improved public and semi-public infrastructure within the development area.
4. Improve the overall appearance of the downtown area.
5. Create an aesthetically pleasing environment.
6. Encourage development of additional public spaces in the district and improve the existing facilities.

In addition, the DDA follows the four key facets of economic development as identified by the National Mainstreet Program. These four facets are design, organization, promotion and economic restructuring. The DDA then formed a committee for each of these facets. The committees are chaired by a DDA member and consist of both DDA and community members. They do the legwork of the DDA but have no authority as all projects and financial obligations must have prior approval by the DDA.

The committees and chairmen are:

1. Economic Restructuring—Elice Menear
2. Organization—Elice Menear
3. Physical Elements—Claude Rummer
4. Promotion—Tony Morgan

All meetings of the DDA and its perspective committees are open to the public. If you are interested in participating on one or more committees, please contact Lisa Sheaffer at (269) 561-8321 or [treasurer@fennville.com](mailto:treasurer@fennville.com).

**We're on the web! Visit [www.fennville.com](http://www.fennville.com)**