



# Downtown Summit

♪ Everything's Waiting For You ♪

Volume I, Issue 12

A newsletter published by Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI)

April 2006

## Summit Downtown, Inc. — Working for You!

### *Don't Talk About Taxes, Do Something About Them*

By Gil Owren  
SDI Trustee

"Everybody talks about taxes, but nobody does anything about them." Well, Summit Downtown, Inc. is trying to do something about taxes. Please let me explain how.

A little bit of history first. About 10 years ago, Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) assumed responsibility for most of the existing downtown promotional events and also began introducing new activities to help promote Downtown Summit.

To pay for this effort, Common Council formed a Special Improvement District comprised of the downtown properties and a tax was imposed on the downtown property owners, called the "Special Improvement District Tax" (SID Tax).

Common Council also named SDI as the managing agent of the Special Improvement District.

SDI has used this tax money to breathe new life into existing activities such as the wonderful holiday events surrounding Christmas.

New events were also introduced like Farmer's Market and the Summit Classic

Car Show, that have become very popular attractions for Downtown Summit.

In addition, in the late 1990s, a partnership was formed with the Mayor and Common Council concerning the development of a project called the "Downtown Improvement Plan" to completely renovate Downtown Summit's streetscape.

As we all know, this project was essentially completed about three years ago.

All these initiatives cost money and it became apparent several years ago that unless things changed dramatically, the SID Tax was going to skyrocket, creating a burden rather than a benefit on Downtown Summit businesses.

And, every Downtown business pays the SID Tax either directly or indirectly as a pass-through from property owners.

With the cooperation of the Mayor and Common Council, about four years ago SDI changed the way its trustees were selected from an appointed system to one where the SDI trustees are elected by the people paying the tax.

The goal of SDI is still to promote Downtown Sum-

mit, but to do so in a way that does not impose an increased tax burden on downtown businesses.

As a result, a new philosophy was developed by SDI combining two principles:

1. *Forming partnerships with existing organizations to promote our downtown.*

A good example is the partnership between SDI and the Summit Historical Society to promote "A Taste of Summit," featuring many of the outstanding restaurants of Downtown Summit.

SDI Trustee Steve Pardee has been the point person for this partnership and Steve has done a terrific job!

2. *Asking volunteers to be point people to run one event per year.*

We have found that when the same people run the same events one after another, year after year, they burn out.

When one person or group is asked to run only one event each year, they remain energized and eager to continue.

For example, Peter Schwierk and his committee of volunteers ran the Summit Classic Car Show last year. Everyone acknowledges that this past year's Show

was the best ever.

Instead of spending tax dollars to underwrite this event, Peter and his many volunteers actually made money for SDI to spend on other activities to promote Downtown Summit.

The most recent venture by SDI is a partnership with the Summit Public Schools where all of the Summit schools will be engaged in a fundraiser to purchase new American flags for Downtown Summit.

We expect that this partnership will be a success with the new American flags installed prior to the All-American Fish Fry on May 20.

As you can see, this philosophy is working. During the past four years or so more has been done by SDI to promote Downtown Summit without increasing the SID Tax.

This is a win-win for Downtown Summit and the SID taxpayers.

What can you do? Help us help you and your business by volunteering your time to promote Downtown Summit. In doing so, you won't be talking about taxes, you'll be doing something about them.

# SDI Volunteer Board of Directors

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## *Appointed Trustees*

**Jordan Glatt**  
Mayor  
908-277-9420

**Frank Macioce**  
Council President  
908-273-6400

**Ellen Dickson**  
Councilwoman  
908-273-6400

**Chris Cotter**  
City Administrator  
908-522-3600

## *Elected Trustees*

**Gregory Drummond**  
SDI Chair  
908-277-2900

**George Belber**  
The Belber Agency  
908-277-1200

**Sandy Bristol**  
Resident at large  
908-522-0145

**Detlef Felschow**  
SDI Treasurer  
908-522-0090

**Hank Gibson**  
Mountain Agency  
908-273-2212

**Gerald Hale**  
Hale Resources  
908-273-2267

**Emi Havas**  
Paperfolio  
908-277-0459

**Nanette Kryston**  
SDI Secretary  
908-273-2049

**Walter D. Long**  
Travelong  
908-277-2700

**Jan Martin**  
The Summit Sampler  
908-277-4747

**Anthony Melchionna**  
Salon 44  
908-277-1671

**Gil Owren**  
Drummond & Owren  
908-277-2727

**Stephen Pardee**  
Resident at large  
908-277-3662

**Peter Schwierk**  
Property Owner  
908-273-6154

**Doris Schneider**  
Coldwell Banker  
908-277-1770

**Mark Wadmond**  
The Video Station  
908-273-0024

**Steven Weinberg**  
The Glassmith Shop  
908-277-0411

## SDI Committees

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### Staff

Marin Mixon  
908-277-6100

### Executive

Gregory Drummond  
Beechwood Title Agency  
908-277-2900

### Promotions

Hank Gibson, Chair  
Mountain Agency  
908-273-2212

### Parking

Gerald Hale/Gil Owren, Co-Chairs  
908-273-2267  
908-277-2727

### Finance

Detlef Felschow, Chair  
Hilltop Community Bank  
908-522-0090

### Vision

Hugo M. Pfaltz, Jr., Chair  
Pfaltz & Woller, PA  
908-273-1974

### Ambiance

Emi Havas, Chair  
Paperfolio  
908-277-0449

### Bylaws and Trustee Recruitment

George Belber, Chair  
908-277-2100

### Elections

Nanette Kryston/Peter Schwierk,  
Co-Chairs  
908-273-2049/908-273-6154

# SDI Calendar of Events — 2006

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## April

19th Annual “A Taste of Summit” at The Grand Summit Hotel — date TBD

SDI Easter Bunny Fun Day in conjunction with the Summit Area YMCA Easter Egg Extravaganza and the Summit PAL — April 8

## May

Mother’s Day — May 14

All-American Fish Fry — Armed Forces Day — May 20

Art Show — May 21

Memorial Day Downtown Parade — May 29

## June

Father’s Day — June 18

Opening of Farmers’ Market — date TBD

Summit Sidewalk Sale — June 22-24

## July

Summit concerts begin — dates TBD

Farmers’ Market continues

## August

Summit’s Summer Street Fair — August 5

Farmers’ Market continues

Summit concerts continue

## September

Overlook Centennial Celebration — Family Day — September 17

Summit Classic Car Show — September 24

Farmers’ Market continues

## October

Downtown Trick or Treating with the Summit Area YMCA and the Summit PAL — October 28

Farmers’ Market continues

## November

Thursday evening entertainment

Farmers’ Market ends

## December

All the traditional holiday events including Santa’s arrival with the Summit PAL Holiday Parade; Dining with Santa; Holiday Puppet Show; horse and carriage rides; Angel Trees with The Salvation Army; and many other wonderful holiday events

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## APRIL MEETINGS

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**Please mark your calendars with the following important dates in March:**

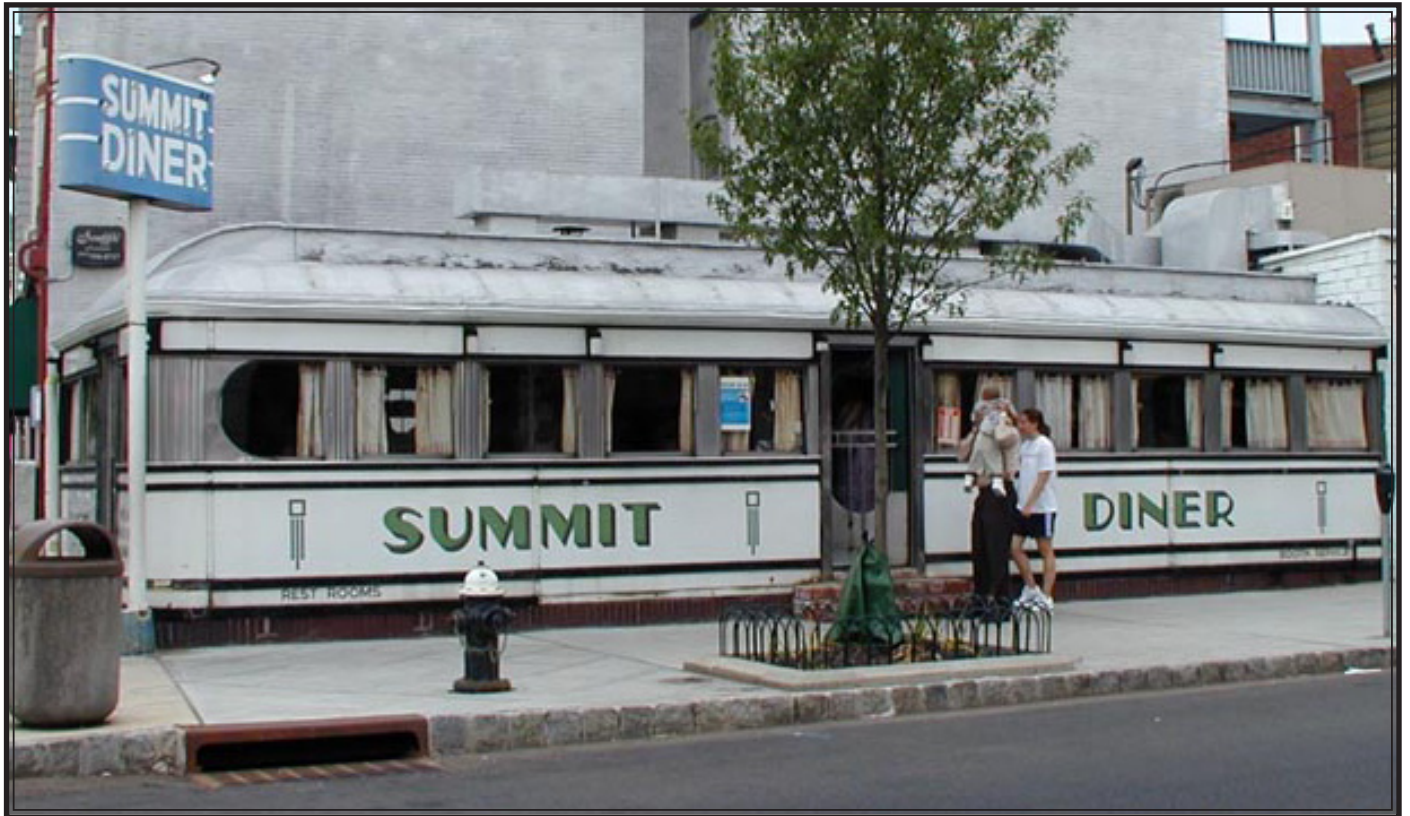
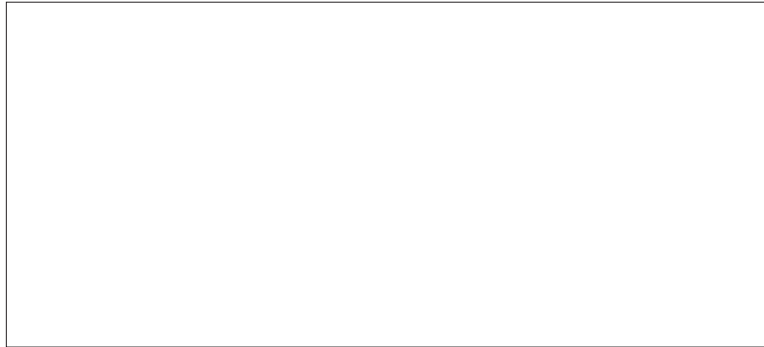
**The Promotions Committee of SDI will meet on April 19, 2006 at 8:15 a.m. in the Whitman Room of Summit City Hall. In addition, the Board of Trustees of SDI will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 in the Whitman Room at Summit City Hall beginning at 8 a.m.**

**Please feel free to attend either or both of those meetings. Thank you.**



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If you are interested in sponsoring an issue of Downtown Summit, contact Gil Owren at 908.277.2727**