

STATE GAZETTE

Downtown businesses to host Christmas Open House, light project nears completion

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Enhancement projects for downtown Dyersburg have been underway for some time, as local business owners, with the full support of the Main Street Dyersburg Downtown Development Board, have combined efforts to generate more traffic through the historic district.



Pictured above, Copper Lane co-owner Mandy Conti is seen with one of downtown's new holiday lights. The lights are scheduled to be hung before the Downtown Lights Christmas Open House event on Nov. 9-10.

From the handrail project and façade improvements to streetlamp enhancements and emerging new small businesses, a breath of fresh air has blown through the area, and there is still much more to come.

In a community-driven project, residents and business owners recently combined their efforts and contributions to bring some extra holiday cheer to the square.

Collecting over \$8,000 in donations, project leaders such as Chris Donaldson, owner of The Mill Workspace, and members of the Downtown Main Street Development Board used the donated funds to purchase commercial LED snowflake-shaped holiday lights, which will be hung from 27 of the historic reproduction light poles in the historic district next month.

Sponsors of the Phase I initiative include: Lannom, Coronado and Haight Attorneys, General Appliance and Furniture Company, Joe's Downtown Market, Copper Lane, Ford Construction, Security Bank, Dyer County, Ermco, Windle HVAC Services, Simmons Bank, The Mustard Company Store, Dyersburg Funeral Home, Murray and Debbie Moore, First Citizens National Bank, First Citizens Investment Services, Pennington Seed and Supply, Fiddlesticks, Don O. King Auction and Realty, Dyer County Leadership Alumni, Wise Foundation, Buff City Soap, Boss Hoss Cycles, RFW Construction, Tencom Services, Curry Funeral Home, White and Associates, Lee and Janice Moore, Chris Ingram and the City of Dyersburg.

According to Donaldson and Main Street Director Steve Guttery, hanging lights around the square is only Phase I of enhancements. With the arrival of further funding, more lights will be purchased and placed in radial directions out from the Veterans Square.

Local electrical contractor, AMTECK LLC, has generously donated services and manpower to hang the lights, and complete electrical hookups on each pole.

Phase II has already begun with tax-deductible donations being collected for the next series of Christmas lights for 2019. If you would like to purchase a Christmas snowflake light, please contact Chris Donaldson at 731-288-8000.

With the finale of Phase I initiatives, downtown Dyersburg will be hosting a Downtown Lights Christmas Open House. The event is scheduled for Nov. 9-10.

On Friday, Nov. 9, downtown businesses will be open from 5-8 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, the event will continue from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Donaldson says residents can expect a variety of tasty treats from local food vendors who will be stationed along South Mill Ave., as well as hot cocoa and coffee available at the Mill Workspace, courtesy of Java Café.