



Main Street Vacancies— by The Shamanic Economist

At the beginning of the year, many retail analysts worried that the malls could empty out. That hasn't happened at quite the pace that was predicted. Mall managers have gone to great lengths to keep malls mostly occupied, including deals that allow some new store tenants to go for months before paying rent.

Vacancies continue to pile up in downtown areas, though, particularly in smaller towns and in small cities where a major employer has closed its offices. Power company SCANA is moving out of its old downtown headquarters in Columbia, South Carolina, for example, and as 900 workers leave downtown, nearby stores, restaurants, and bars are preparing to cut back, and some may have to close if another tenant is not quickly found for the office space.

In other downtown areas that were already mostly vacant before the recession hit, you can walk past whole blocks of empty storefronts. In older towns, many of the stores are houses from the late 1800s that were converted into stores in the 1950s, and some of these are now being converted into apartments.

Parking is one of the reasons for downtown decline. It is hard to attract shoppers where there is a shortage of parking, or where parking lots are hidden behind buildings in places that are not so easy for visitors to find. Many cities are making the problem worse by increasing parking fines for people who park incorrectly on the street, a move that may make potential shoppers want to avoid the downtown area altogether. A better approach is to use vacant land to add off-street parking, but local governments resist this because of the expenses involved. Zionsville, Indiana, is spending \$180,000 next month to remove a vacant gas station and build a parking lot. It seems like a lot to spend for a few dozen parking spaces, but it puts Zionsville in a better situation than a city like Calgary, where even parking fees of \$10 an hour aren't high enough to relieve the perpetual shortage of parking in the city.

Downtown vacancies have even hit the United Kingdom. Many American towns might envy a 12 percent vacancy rate, but in the United Kingdom, where downtown vacancies are expected to be less than 5 percent, the 12 percent vacancy rate found in a recent survey is considered a crisis.

The pace of U.S. mall store closings, over 10,000 a month this year, is not expected to slow down much next year, and this means malls and downtowns will have to compete harder to attract new stores. Ultimately, this is bad news for the landowners, as rents will have to fall well below current levels to keep retail space occupied.

Airport Fly-In Bash Breakfast Huge Success

Thanks to all the Main Street volunteers and attendees for a very successful breakfast this year. We served over 145 customers at Omar Bradley airport and were very please with the turn out of supporters.

Thanks to all the workers including: Liz Sosniecki, Ian Sosniecki, Jim Whelan, Emma Williams, Elvina & Craig Cunningham, Lisa Casey, Tammy Kramer and Gary Bowman.

A HUGE thank you to Elvina and Craig Cunningham for making the excellent gravy, Bud Casey for the supplying us with the eggs and sausage , Jim Whelan for supplying ice and coolers and Bo from the City for just being there and helping out!

Haunted Ghost Tour in Downtown Moberly

Join us as we take a leisurely stroll and search along the shadowy streets of downtown Moberly, to hear stories of the unexplained and strange. Hear about haunted buildings in the downtown area. In conjunction with the Halloween spirit, Main Street is planning a Haunted tour in the downtown area, which will be for adults only and the date will be October 29th , 2011.

We need to hear from you have had an encounter of the third kind or just heard a story that will fit out Main Street haunted tour . WE NEED YOU!!!!

All you history buffs and creative writers, need to sharpen your mind and your pen and get to putting it down on paper.

We need the following things :

- Haunted Buildings in the downtown area
- Story tellers
- Actors and Actresses
- Volunteers to be guides
- 2 or so horse and carriages

If you can help in anyway, please contact me at the Main Street Office. We will be having a promotions meeting on the evening of August 4th (time to be determined), if interested contact me and I will give you time of meeting when determined.

Promotion

August 6th 2011—Annual Sidewalk Bazaar in Downtown Moberly. Main Street encourages you to have special promotion or sales on this day to promote your business. If you know of churches or other not for profits that would be interested in putting up booths, have them contact the Main Street Office.

Oct 29, 2011—Haunted Tours in downtown Moberly.

November 23 and 25th— Black Wed and Friday in downtown Moberly.

December 1st—Living Windows

Community Calendar

- August 5, 2011 - **Back to School Blast** One day only Back to School Blast at Citizens Bank & Trust. Free Ice Cream and chance to win Apple iPad2. For more information call 660-263-6231.
- August 6, 2011 **Sidewalk Bazaar** - Downtown Moberly will be having their annual sidewalk sale, local businesses will be participating and will be setting up in the downtown area. Hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- August 10, and 11 2011 **EBook Classes** - Little Dixie Regional Library will be having a class on e-book, class covers searching, checkout, download and reserving materials from overdrive programs which are compatible with iPads, iPods, Nooks, etc. Class begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Huntsville Library For more information call 660-269-4426.
- August 11, 2011 **Blood Drive** to be held on the Donor Coach at Citizens Bank & Trust located at 801 N Morley from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For appointment call 660-263-6231 or 1-800-RED CROSS.
- August 15, 2011 **EBook Classes** Little Dixie Regional Library will be having class on e-book, class teaches searching, checkout, downloads and reserving materials from overdrive programs which are compatible with iPhone, iPad, iPod etc... Class will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Paris library. For more information call 660-263-4426.
- August 16, 2011 **Healthy Women and Little Dixie Regional Library** present “Suxie O” and her program Laugh for the Health of it...Life Happens, Learn to Bounce at the Moberly Municipal Auditorium from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. RSVP at 660-269-3296.
- August 19, 2011 **Oats** will be having a fundraiser for their organization at the Moberly Community College Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. There will be several different music groups performing as well. For more information call Patricia at 660-263-1863.
- August 25, 2011 **EBook Classes** Little Dixie Regional Library is having e-book classes that teach searching, checkout, downloads and reserving materials from overdrive programs that are compatible with iPad, iPod, iPhone etc... Class will begin at 5:15 p.m. at the Moberly Library.
- August 27, 2011 **Moberly Area Community College** garage sale will be having a garage sale in the activity center from 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
 - **Kids Health and Safety Fair** - Moberly Regional Medical Center presents their 5th annual ER Kids Health and Safety Fair for ages infant – 14. There will be lunch, door prizes, games, bounce house. Give- a- ways compliments of area organizations and Moberly Regional Medical Center. No reservations required.
- August 28, 2011 **Allen Train Robbery** reenactment at the Mini Train Railroad in Rothwell Park from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information call 660.269.8705.
- August 31, 2011 **Community Kitchen** located at 107 N Fifth St will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meals are free to those in need, any donations to help support community kitchen are welcome.

August 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Promotions Meeting Organization Meeting	5	6 Sidewalk Bazaar 7:00 am.
7	8	9 Design Meeting 8 :00 am. City Hall	10	11 Economic Restructure Meeting 8:00 am	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Board Meeting 8:00 am	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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**New Downtown Investor
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