



1. **Reminder: NEW Downtown Improvement Grant (DIG) matching funds program reminder** –The application and website are live – deadline to apply is Sept 15 - bgky.org/downtown/grant; some of the \$40,000 total funds this fiscal year are being held for the Feb 15 – March 15 spring round of funds, too – so if your project isn't timely this Fall, you can apply next year.
2. **Downtown BGKY Harvest Fest major updates** – October 17 is bringing an expansion of the event footprint, extension of the event by 1 hour, and new Trolley route – which means new detour route and parking plans. Let's highlight the connection all the way from Fountain Square to the Houchens Small Biz Accelerator and Kummer Little free public parking. 10-year anniversary of the event is also bringing a 10th anniversary ribbon cutting on October 16 and collabs with Bowling Green, Virginia, whose town also has a Harvest Fest that weekend and celebrates with 20,000 people. Amanda Adwell organizing Harvest Crawl. Please set up on sidewalks, put signage or balloons out to get more eyes on your business.
3. **WKU Society for Lifelong Learning Classes have been confirmed for this semester.** Visit the end of the agenda for the full schedule and encourage friends enrolled in the program to sign up.
4. **Bring your Business to Downtown photo and video shoot** – Houchens Small Business Accelerator, Stadium Park Plaza, Circus Square blocks – Sam Kirby and Austin Anthony doing the shoots again, Sept 15 & 16; for new Downtown tv commercial, social media reels, photo assets
5. **Wednesday, October 28, 3pm: Riverfront Park Ribbon-Cutting & Groundbreaking ceremony.** All are encouraged to participate, attend if you can, and be part of the celebration. Telia will be asking businesses to donate something for a big Downtown giveaway raffle, requiring attendees to sign up for Downtown and Riverfront enewsletters to enter to win. Businesses are encouraged to participate and Telia will be asking for Downtown food options for refreshments.
6. **Scare on the Square planning – October 24** - Amanda Adwell is amazing and has already planned the DJ, food trucks, port o potty for this. We need to start gathering sponsor dollars for the bulk candy and prizes at the start of September.
7. **Holley LS Fest Drift Cruise, September 10** – closing E Main and Park Row sides of the Square from 6:30-10pm that evening. Holley will be selling specially designed Downtown merch on the Square for just this event alone, if any of your staff are into custom style drift racing shirts.
8. **Reminder: Summer Fountain Square Stormwater construction + New Stormwater Utility fee goes into effect January 1** – E Main and Park Row sides of the Square will be impacted with street closures for days at a time in order to upgrade the Stormwater drain systems nearest the intersections of College/E Main and College/Park Row – beginning late-Sept and hopefully lasting no more than 4-5 days on both Park Row and E Main sides of the Square. Telia will be handling the City social media communications for this as well, working with Public Works on messaging and timing. Starting January 1, the City is launching a Stormwater fee to generate funds to cover maintenance and more mapping of our overloaded underground system. It matches the Warren County Stormwater fee reflected in all Warren County Water District bills

September 9, 2026, at The Food School, 3pm
Downtown Meet Up Minutes

at \$4/month. If all of the underground updates across the City were constructed at this moment, an estimated \$500 million to \$1 billion would be the cost, check out the free GIS map that shows all the known Stormwater locations mapped to date on the City site. Contacts: Matt Powell, Environmental Compliance Manager, matt.powell@bgky.org; Dara Price, Construction Coordinator, dara.price@bgky.org.

9. McKenna Tabor – Codes Enforcement Officer Downtown – last day is September 18. She took a new job as Warren County Stormwater Inspector and we wish her well. Telia will share who is taking over as interim Downtown district ASAP. We are hiring for a Codes Enforcement Officer, if you know anyone interested.

10. Save the Date for these events (either hosted Downtown or in other BG spots where Downtown is being promoted/attending an event in support of Downtown):

September

- Sep 10: Holley LS Fest Drift Cruise-In at Fountain Square Park
- Sep 11-13: BG Fiestaval (10 year anniversary)
- Sep 12: DSSKY Walk at Bowling Green Ballpark
- Sep 12: Wind Beneath My Wings Exhibit Opening at Aviation Heritage Park
- Sept 17: City of BG's Reception for New Americans at Sloan Convention Center
- Sep 19: Med Center 10K at Bowling Green Ballpark
- Sep 19: Walk to End Alz at Circus Square
- Sep 21: Jeff Reed's Final Bow concert as Orchestra Kentucky Director for 26 years
- Sep 24–27: Harley Drags at Beech Bend Raceway
- Sep 26: BG International Fest at Circus Square
- Sep 29: Governor Andy Beshear book signing and presentation at Capitol with Fountain Square Park livestream viewing for the community

October

- Scarecrow Trail at Lost River Cave (all month)
- Oct 5: Fall Break Camp at Aviation Heritage Park
- Oct 9: Halloween (1978) Screening at The Capitol Theatre
- Oct 10: Open Cockpit Day at Aviation Heritage Park
- Oct 17: Downtown BGKY Harvest Fest across Downtown parks and venues
- Oct 17: Relay for Life at Bowling Green Ballpark
- Oct 17: RailPark Rendezvous at Historic RailPark & Train Museum
- Oct 18: Walk to End Alz at Circus Square Park
- Oct 18: Suicide Prevention Awareness walk inside BG Hot Rods Stadium
- Oct 23: Major Annual Fundraiser at Riverview at Hobson Grove
- Oct 23–24: Boos & Brews Movie Marathon at The Capitol Theatre
- Oct 23: BCPD Trunk or Treat at Bowling Green Police Dept
- Oct 24: Scare on the Square at Downtown Bowling Green
- Oct 24: BG Pride Fest at Circus Square
- Oct 24: BG Bourbon & Brewfest at BG Ballpark
- Oct 24: Boogeyman Ball Halloween Party at 331
- Oct 31 – Nov 1: BG 26.2 & Half Marathon at Downtown Bowling Green

New business:

Minutes reported by Telia Butler, Downtown Development Coordinator, City of Bowling Green.

September 9, 2026, at The Food School, 3pm
Downtown Meet Up Minutes

The Fountain Row locations in attendance requested more bar checks from PD because they've been seeing more new customers – which is not entirely a bad thing – but with new customers also brings the need for awareness of law enforcement and safety. Now that WKU is back in session, the businesses appreciate more of a police presence in Downtown during late night times on weekends.

The next Downtown Meet Up will be Wednesday, October 14 at 3pm at Heritage Row Photography Studio on 3rd floor of Pushin Building. Thank you to Food School for hosting.

Session 1: Blooms & Bites – Friday, Sept 18, 1-3pm

Roll up your sleeves for hands-on Downtown experiences at the new Houchens Small Business Accelerator! Learn a new culinary skill during a fun cooking class at The Food School (Brazilian cheese bread), then tap into your creative side with a floral design workshop at SoKY Floral Exchange, where you'll create a beautiful project to take home.

Participants will visit both locations.

\$40/person (\$20 floral workshop, \$20 food school workshop) | Maximum 20 participants

Session 2: Building a Better BG – Monday, Sept 21, 9-11am

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the people, projects, and partnerships making Bowling Green an even better place. A Better BGKY Inc. is the City's 501c3 nonprofit. Hear about new Downtown Improvement Grant opportunities, Riverfront Park news, ways to volunteer at City events and programs, exciting events on the horizon with the City's Community Engagement division—all while learning how residents can get involved.

Neighborhood & Community Services building's Community Room at 707 E Main.

Free | Maximum 40 participants

Session 3: Sparkle & Stretch – Friday, Sept 25, 9-11am

A little wellness, a little wonder! Enjoy a gentle, beginner-friendly chair yoga class at Lucky Dog Yoga focused on relaxation, flexibility, and healthy movement. Then step behind the scenes at Morris Jewelry for an exclusive tour of the metalworking shop, where you'll discover the craftsmanship behind fine jewelry and hear stories of Bowling Green history hidden among the treasures.

Participants will visit both locations.

Free | Maximum 18 participants

Session 4: Light & Legacy – Monday, Sept 28, 1-3pm

Minutes reported by Telia Butler, Downtown Development Coordinator, City of Bowling Green.

September 9, 2026, at The Food School, 3pm
Downtown Meet Up Minutes

Discover the artistry behind two Downtown makers. Create your own custom candle at Candle Makers on the Square while learning about fragrance blending and candle pouring. Then enjoy an exclusive tour of Barbara Stewart Interiors' custom framing studio to see how artwork, photographs, and cherished keepsakes are beautifully preserved.

Participants will visit both locations.

\$10 per candle pour (paid to Candle Makers on the Square) | Maximum 18 participants

Session 5: Hops & Grapes, Friday, Oct 2, 1-3pm

Sample two of Downtown Bowling Green's favorite gathering spots. Enjoy a guided brewery tour and beer tasting at White Squirrel Brewery and a curated wine tasting at Staircase Wine Shop, Bowling Green's smallest and most charming boutique wine shop. Learn about the brewing and winemaking process while sampling a variety of flavors in relaxed settings.

Participants will visit both locations.

\$15 per person (\$10 brewery tasting, \$5 wine tasting) | Maximum 18 participants