



1. **Downtown Improvement Matching Funds Grant Program survey results** – Telia and Brent Childers spoke on the criteria of the program and the intent to seek funds in the City's next fiscal year starting July 1, 2026. Based on input from 40 survey responses, ideal eligible projects for matching funds grants could include façade and signage improvements, restoring/preserving/repairing/rebuilding elements of an historic property, storefront enhancements, public art, adding a new amenity to a business or property, and improving safety and accessibility to Downtown property. More details to come.
2. **Traffic Study results** from the radar set up on the corner of Main/State in front of Meltdown; hosted by Melanie Shy, Bowling Green Public Works. She reported 27,000 cars went thru the intersection at an average speed of about 11-15 mph. She is going to speak with Public Works leadership about reducing the speed limit around the Square to 15 mph and painting the speed limit on the asphalt.
3. **EDC Patrol set up for September 12 and 19** with BGPD Community Engagement team and patrol officers; BGPD posted a Fountain Row informative social media post last week – bars and restaurants active should expect a visit for patrons and general PD presence at some point during the evening. It is a community engagement and safety exercise.
4. **New Downtown Ambassador program coming to WKU thru partnership with City/WKU/BG Chamber** – running October thru April for 6 dates of activities hosted at Downtown venues, incorporating Downtown businesses and mandatory projects for students to complete; this is a program combining the values of NCS academies and Leadership BG with a cohort of 20-25 students learning connections between Downtown and campus, how City government works, and a leadership-based series of real world applications. We are seeking host venues and sponsored meals for 20-25 ppl in October, November, January, February, March, and April – with a graduation in April. Building an annual cohort based on this pilot program. Telia will be reaching out to venues and businesses to participate!
5. **Downtown Harvest Fest** prep for Saturday, October 18. Street closures run 8am-5pm; closing both Park Row and East Main, 7th between College and State, and College between 6th and 7th. Amanda Adwell organizing Harvest Crawl for Fountain Row bars and restaurants again. Please set up outside your business with a table on the sidewalk or signage – this is the largest single event day attendance by volume for all year – capture that foot traffic! Still seeking sponsorships – starting at \$250 – if you know of anyone who would be interested in contributing, please send them my way. Telia will ask Jose Gonzalez to park the food trucks on the park-side of the street to keep away from the businesses for noise and to allow them to set up on the sidewalk with more room for activities.
6. **Scare on the Square news** – Saturday, October 25, 2-4pm. Amanda Adwell is once again organizing sponsors, food trucks, inflatables, DJ, and port o johns. This year, we will have at least 3 volunteers helping pass out candy and run errands throughout the event. Telia will buy the candy for group distribution like last year. Telia is organizing media schedule, creating Facebook event, and encouraging all to participate.

7. **RailPark Rendezvous** – Downtown BGKY silent auction basket requested – if you'd like to contribute a gift card, coupon, or merch – please let Telia know by October 1; this event is Oct 16 and the annual fundraiser for the Depot; this year is its 100th anniversary
8. Save the date reminders for major events, *new events added in italics*:
 - Med Center 10K Classic – Sept 20 – since the race runs thru the Square, CandleMakers suggested the businesses get involved and offer something for the runners – Telia contacted event organizer Sarah Widener to ask if they're open to it and what they'd recommend and is awaiting a reply
 - BG International Fest – Sept 27
 - Fountain Row Friday music runs weekly thru Oct 3
 - Halloween Comes Home – John Carpenter Films at Capitol – double feature – Oct 10*
 - RailPark Rendezvous – Oct 16 – 100th Anniversary of L&N Depot*
 - Downtown Harvest Fest – Oct 18
 - Boos & Brews at Capitol – Oct 24 and 25*
 - Bourbon & Brewfest at BG Ballpark– Oct 25
 - BG Pride at Circus Square – Oct 25
 - Scare on the Square – Oct 25
 - WKU Homecoming Parade & Big Red's Roar Pep Rally at Fountain Square – Oct 31
 - WKU Homecoming football game – Nov 1
 - BG 26.2 Half Marathon – Nov 2
 - Veteran's Day Parade – Nov 8
 - Light Up BGKY week – Dec 1-7 – start of the holiday window decorating contest
 - Downtown Lights Up – Dec 5
 - BG/WC Jaycees Christmas Parade – Dec 6
9. **New Downtown biz:**
 - Thirsty's Drink Stop on E. Main – offering soda fountain, small bites, Cocomo Confections
10. **Riverfront Park update** – Brent Childers reported the City plans to post a bid seeking construction bids for Phase 1 in the next couple of weeks, with the goal to start construction in Winter 2026 with completion in Spring 2026. Exciting news!