



VIEWS & VISIONS

A publication of Bowles Rice LLP

Summer 2019



Downtown Parkersburg: This is the Place!

Wendy Shriver, Executive Director
Downtown PKB

Wendy Shriver is the Executive Director of Downtown PKB, a Main Street Community. After earning her bachelor's degree in Recreation Studies from Ohio University, she joined the marketing department of the Memorial Health System. While there, she completed numerous continuing education courses, including the Telesis Leadership Academy and the Memorial Health System's Exploring Leadership Program, where she became a supervisor prior to leaving the organization. In 2015, Wendy took the leadership role with Downtown PKB and has grown the non-profit organization in its capacity.

Downtown Parkersburg is a bustling place where you can exercise at lunch along our walking and biking paths, stretch and relax at one of our yoga classes, paddle on our downtown rivers, or simply relax by the calming water along our Riverfront Park.

Summertime in downtown is the time and place to attend one of the many outdoor events hosted by Downtown PKB, Parkersburg's Main Street Community. Our organization works hard year-round, planning and programming the nine events that we provide to the community.

Kicking off the summer each year is The Taste of Parkersburg, our signature event and Downtown PKB's largest fundraiser. Held the



first Saturday after Memorial Day, Bicentennial Park is transformed into a place where visitors can savor the flavors of our area and enjoy lively music while connecting with friends and family. If you've never attended, make plans to come and visit our area. You can stay at one of our downtown hotels like the historic Blennerhassett Hotel, our new Marriott TownePlace Suites or the Downtown Hampton Inn.



Summer in Parkersburg wouldn't be the same without experiencing a free concert while relaxing along the riverfront. Held on the first Friday of the month from June through September, Downtown PKB's Point Park Concerts on the River are funded by our generous grant donors, business sponsorships and our popular reserved seating option. These concerts provide fun-filled evenings with sweet sounds from our tribute bands and picture-perfect sunsets on the Ohio River.

Many folks stay for a long weekend during our concert series season to experience even more of the area's attractions. For instance, they might book an overnight package that includes a sternwheel ride to the historic Blennerhassett Island State Park and a luxurious stay at the historic Blennerhassett Hotel. While there, guests can indulge in selections from the hotel's recently revamped Brunello Restaurant & Bar, featuring an exciting new menu packed with a flavorful mix of Italian and French cuisine along with some local favorites and an extensive wine list.

Visitors to our downtown can explore a variety of museums, arts and cultural destinations; dine at one of 14 family-owned restaurants and eateries; and shop at any one of the small businesses that make Parkersburg unique. Whether you decide to go exploring through our Oil and Gas Museum, the Blennerhassett Island Museum or stroll up Market Street to check out the beautiful artwork on display at the Parkersburg Art Center, you won't be disappointed at what you might find. Our local community theatre, the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, has a schedule of encore-worthy performances that you'll also want to see, and the historic Smoot Theatre hosts a variety of acts throughout the year.

Downtown PKB's various committees are constantly working to improve the landscape of downtown with beautification efforts along the streets, the addition of decorative banners on Market Street, a gateway banner that welcomes visitors from Ohio into our downtown and our recently installed "Greetings from Parkersburg" postcard mural on the side of the Wesbanco building. We are also working to incorporate more public art into downtown. Recently, we installed the first Selfie Station at the site of the Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In partnership with Downtown PKB's efforts to revitalize the area, the City of Parkersburg is making contributions of their own, including the addition of Edison lighting on Market Street, improvements to amenities in our local parks and a \$1 million investment for the new Splash Pad in City Park. All in all, it's the volunteers and dedicated officials who are the true gems that help make our community a more beautiful place to live, work and play.

With these improvements and the many more to come, the City of Parkersburg is a place to savor the local flavors, explore the arts, take a walk through the past and make memories at our events with family and friends. We hope to see you soon! ♡



***Image 1:** The annual Taste of Parkersburg, which is held in the springtime, offers attendees a venue featuring a mix of food, wine and music. **Image 2:** The Blennerhassett Hotel is a historic, full-service hotel located in Downtown Parkersburg. **Image 3:** The Point Park Concerts on the River are free events held on the first Friday of the month from June through September.*