

..... From the Mayor
(Sept. 7, 2012)

Sometime later this Fall, 102 South Buffalo Street will be Warsaw City Hall's new address. Right smack in the middle of downtown! B-Mac's for breakfast, Courthouse Coffee for a mid-morning jolt, Greek's Pizza for lunch, stop at Male Fashions to update my threads, a candy fix at the Buffalo Street Emporium, some adult conversation at St. Regis Club, and a workout at Giverny Fitness Studio after a great sandwich at Brown Bag Deli, Mad Anthony's, or the Downtown. How am I going to get anything done? (My apologies to all of our other great merchants that I didn't mention.)

The new City Hall will house Clerk-Treasurer Lynne Christiansen and her staff, along with the Wastewater Payment office, on the first floor in the area of the former bank main lobby. There will also be an after-hours drop box for wastewater payments. Photos and mementos from Warsaw's past will be displayed in that lobby, including a large double-sided bench from the old Warsaw train depot. If you have something you would like to display, contact Councilman Jerry Frush.

The Council Chambers will be on the first floor at the south end of the building. The seating capacity will be approximately double our current meeting area. This space will host most city meetings and other public gatherings. There will be two entrances to the building off of Buffalo Street and one on the west side of the building adjacent to the City Plaza.

Also on the first floor will be a small area for a patrolman. This office will give WPD a more visible downtown presence while providing security for the building, plaza, and neighborhood.

The Building and Planning Department on the second floor is comprised of planning, engineering, inspection, and code enforcement offices. All of those offices were formerly in the West Center Street location adjacent to the old sewage treatment facility. Having those offices in City Hall will eliminate the disadvantage of separation and create a much more efficient work environment.

The second floor will also house the Human Resources department and office of the Mayor. As with the current City Hall, the door will always be open to my office. The second floor also has a large conference room and facilities for workforce training, department meetings, regional roundtable meetings, and other functions.

We are planning to host the Festival of Trees in City Hall, along with other merchant locations, as a part of this year's downtown Hometown Holidays celebration. We will also bring Toys for Tots back downtown to the City Plaza, and hope to find some local singers and musicians to perform that day from the new deck. (You may reach Paula Bowman through my office at 372-9595 to inquire about scheduling a

performance time.) It should be a great Hometown Holiday weekend in our downtown!

In addition, the Plaza will be the center of First Friday events, along with the newly established Farmers Market, the Optimist Car Show, the bicycle race, and many other community initiated events. When not the center of a gathering, the new plaza will provide some public parking spaces that will shorten your walk to your favorite shop or eatery. Those details will be finalized through the results of our downtown parking study.

The exterior improvements to City Hall will soon create **an attractive new façade** for our downtown. Our dedicated, hard-working employees will become new neighbors to a downtown full of hard-working commercial, professional, and residential neighbors. We plan to be a part of this neighborhood for a long time.