

**UPTOWN PROJECT, Inc**  
**Francesville, IN**

The UPTOWN PROJECT, Inc Board of Directors would like to convey a heartfelt message of appreciation and thanksgiving to the Francesville community and to the many devoted volunteers who have given of their time, talents and resources in making our community a great place in which to live, work and play! As the UPTOWN PROJECT begins a new year, it is our desire for each of you to join us in helping to make a lasting impact on this community we love. Even though our community continues to face many obstacles, we are facing those challenges with a renewed sense of hope, optimism, and confidence!

The following UPTOWN PROJECT, Inc undertakings were realized in 2019.

**Board of Directors & Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee meets monthly, while the Board of Directors meet as often as necessary to provide guidance, support and stability to this organization.
2. The General Assembly meets monthly to hear committee reports, to provide invaluable input and to be kept informed of current events.
3. All work plans and committee budgets have been reviewed and revisions made.
4. The bylaws were revised in September and approved.
5. Notes of appreciation have been sent to an on-going list of volunteers and businesses donating their time, talents and resources during 2019.
6. A current list of UPTOWN members plus contact information has been maintained.
7. Volunteer hours have been collected from members via sign-in sheets.
8. A representative continues to attend bi-weekly Town Council meetings and give updates to Council.
9. Maintain membership in and attends monthly Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce meetings; membership in Tippecanoe Arts Federation.
10. Attended county-wide placemaking grant sessions and other community forums sponsored by the Community Foundation, CDC and other Pulaski County organizations.
11. Gave an UPTOWN power-point presentation in February to a near-by community interested in becoming a Main Street Organization.
12. At least one Executive committee member serves on each UPTOWN sub-committee
13. Created a list of local businesses having a 47946-zip code.
14. Created a list of rental properties in and around Francesville with addresses and landlord contact information.
15. Implemented two fund raisers—Dan's Fish Fry; Easter Egg sales, Beer & Wine Garden; Turkey Trot 5K Run & Holiday Bazaar
16. Continue to maintain Montgomery Mercantile building; presently, investigating cost-effective ways to repair an exterior wall of the Montgomery Mercantile.
17. Pulaski County—Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory and a Historic Business application have been secured. These reference materials will provide guidance as preservation and documentation of historic buildings in the business district are undertaken.
18. Engaged in meetings with Purdue Extension Wellness—Deb Mix, Coordinator.
19. Three members attended the September regional ORCA/IMPA meeting in Carmel.
20. On-going promotion of the Community Foundation of Pulaski County Gift VII campaign and encouraging membership to support UPTOWN's Endowment fund, as well as, participation in the "Giving Tuesday" campaign.
21. Development of a Strategic 5-Year Plan is underway.
22. Continue to maintain "good standing" status with OCRA.
23. Donated toward the Fire Department's purchase of light-weight tables for the fire station.

## **Beautification Committee**

1. In partnership with the Town Council, the historic business area sidewalk issues have been addressed and repairs are slated for the summer of 2020. A donation was made to the "sidewalk fund."
2. Seasonal décor is maintained in business district area and at the gazebo. Plantings in pots were maintained.
3. Recycling garden stakes have been repaired.
4. Adopt-a-Spot area sponsors were contacted, and areas were maintained.
5. Trash containers at the gazebo and park were periodically checked/emptied.
6. Gazebo brick surface area was maintained.
7. UPTOWN initiated and was awarded a \$10,000 REMC/CoBank grant for the purchase of two trash containers and five outdoor musical instruments for our town park.
8. Vines on park trees were removed and undergrowth cut.
9. Concrete pots were stained to match similar pots.
10. General tidiness within our community, at the town park & ball diamonds was ongoing.
11. Sponsored annual downtown scarecrow contest with 13 participants.
12. Continue to work with local artists on mural projects.
13. Continue to investigate ways to create an esthetically pleasing business district, town park and other areas within our town limits.

## **Events Committee**

1. Bingo activities were held in January and February.
2. February's Sweetheart Dinner— 82 attended.
3. Dan's Fish Fry was held at the fire station—382 adult & 25 children were served—29 UPTOWN and community members volunteered.
4. March Easter Egg Sales—385 eggs were sold.
5. Assisted with Parkview Haven's Easter Egg/Art Auction.
6. Continued to promote and provide support for the Westside Farmer's Market. An UPTOWN representative served on the Farmer's Market Board.
7. June's Murder Mystery Dinner was held—35 attended.
8. July 7<sup>th</sup> Family Fun & Music in the park event was very well attended...great turn-out!
9. Purchased a cotton candy machine for UPTOWN and community use.
10. August family movie night event was held in the gazebo area. A special movie license was secured for this event.
11. Hosted annual Harvest Hoopla Event at the fire station. This event was held in conjunction with OCRA's "Downtown Development Week." There was very good business and community participation. Beer & Wine Garden held during the evening.
12. Hosted annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk and Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 23rd. This event was very well attended.
13. Used a wide variety of media to advertise events.
14. Committee readily shares Facebook posts when local businesses, organizations and groups make posts.

## **Restructuring Committee**

1. Ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Feb. 2 at Influx Printing & Design.
2. Signage erected at corner of Hwy 421 and Montgomery St. to advertise Francesville's business district. This space and signage are well-maintained.
3. News articles have been written and submitted to the Francesville Tribune that focused on existing businesses and building history. The businesses showcased were:
  - o Cut-n-Cuddle
  - o Agrisol/Kubota
  - o Clear Decision Filtration

- Alliance Bank
- 4. Advertised on Winamac's Isis Theater movie screen for 13 weeks.
- 5. Ongoing advertising on Rensselaer's Ritz Theatre movie screen for an entire year.
- 6. Enlisted the help of a Town Council member to act as an advisor on the Restructuring Committee.
- 7. Restructuring Committee members strive to attend least one Council meeting per month.
- 8. Continue to update website and promote UPTOWN activities and events on social media sites, in local newspaper, the Francesville Tribune, and in the county newspaper.
- 9. Maintained "Welcome to Francesville" signage on outskirts of town.
- 10. Continue to brainstorm ways to address community "needs."
- 11. Continue to investigate ways to support local businesses.
- 12. Ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> at Loren's Old Corral.

**Montgomery Mercantile Operations Committee**

1. Vendor/Operations guidelines have been updated.
2. Booth spaces continue to be re-configured as needs change.
3. Phase 2—the installation of an ADA accessible restroom has been completed. This project was largely funded through a grant from the Community Foundation of Pulaski County; coupled with the generosity of businesses and residents.
4. A utility closet was remodeled; storage space was created under a stairway; a tin ceiling was installed; doors, trim and lighting were added, and painting was updated.
5. A kitchen was added and has been certified by PC Health Department.
6. A small café has opened and is providing breakfast and lunch options three days a week.
7. Legal documents have been created pertaining to the café's use of the certified kitchen.
8. Leak in roof has been addressed.
9. Hosted after-hours events in the Mercantile to increase foot traffic in our historic district.
10. Average number of entrepreneurs utilizing the Montgomery Mercantile building remains constant at 18.
11. Continue to explore creative ways to involve West Central students/classes in the Mercantile and UPTOWN PROJECT organization.

**Membership & Meeting Date**

- Presently, 35 individuals belong to the UPTOWN PROJECT, Inc.
- General Assembly meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month @ 5:30 PM at the Cornerstone Events Center. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

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**Mission: The Uptown Project has been organized for the purpose of enhancing Francesville's historic business district and identity by providing social, commercial, and recreational opportunities that will strengthen our community's quality of life. In addition to the historic district, this organization will also promote other business areas within our city limits and will work to enhance our town park.**