



NEW "MAIN STREET WAKARUSA, INC." FORMED:

We have applied to become an Indiana Main Street Community. We are very close to being approved by the State and are active as if we already have been! MSW has been an all-call to our millennial aged citizens to get involved and invest in their community to make sure Wakarusa remains evolving and vibrant in the years to come. The Wakarusa Bubble Bash was their kick-off event and was a lot of fun. This describes MSW's current vision:

Main Street Wakarusa, Inc. (MSW) is a newly formed group coming together to insure the vitality and continued growth of our little town. Indiana Main Street Community "status" means State Government recognizes us as a vibrant, evolving community qualified for State grants and other various resources. *MSW consists of the following members: (more continually welcomed)*

Jayme Richmond, Natalie Cook, Arika Chilburg, Danae Ehret, Eric Brown, Mike Schade, Chad Haviland, Lizzie Kern & Todd Scheets. Town Manager, Town Clerk and Chamber Secretary serve ex-officio.

MSW identified room for improving the downtown by envisioning a way to utilize a vacant gravel lot with a pavilion, restroom, a greenspace and having the capability for a portable ice skate rink during the winter months. This could possibly be "Doc Abel Memorial Park" however a more timely location to place a statue could be the existing "Memorial Park". Either way, MSW is kicking-off its Vibrant Campaign honoring a man who dedicated his life to keeping our Town vibrant and evolving.

Until MSW obtains it's official 501c3 status, it will collect funds under the umbrella of Wakarusa Maple Syrup Heritage, Inc., a 501c3 branch of the Maple Syrup Festival. All donations will be tax deductible.

Tentative estimates for a full-size bronze statue range from \$60-\$100K. Our "Phase I" goal, to cover all related statue costs, is \$100K. Phase II fund raising will address "where" we place it.

Next on MSW's agenda is to continue publicizing the STATUE effort and taking part in the ice cream social, fall party and Christmas around the Tree, ALL of which Doc started, funded, volunteered and organized!

Wakarusa Community:

We need more people to serve on the Main Street Wakarusa Committee! We especially need some younger people to start getting involved. Taking a look around *just our downtown* - you will find >75% owners/proprietors are 55+. Having a MSW sub-committee just addressing this issue is a goal.