



**CORPORATION FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
SILVER CITY MAINSTREET PROJECT
SILCO THEATER PROJECT**

JANUARY TO MARCH 2015 QUARTERLY REPORT

Silver City MainStreet reports statistical information of activity in the downtown district to New Mexico MainStreet on a quarterly basis. A summary of the report for the first quarter of 2015 is: three new businesses opened, one business closed, one property purchased, four permits taken out for a total of \$154,000 and 240 volunteer hours logged, with a dollar value of approximately \$4,000.

SC MainStreet also coordinated an event that highlighted the Power and Light Press, a business on College Street in the downtown district. On February 5, SC MainStreet hosted a reception at the business. The proprietor, Kyle Durrie had the opportunity to demonstrate the use of the antique printing presses that she uses to produce posters and cards. Durrie had also designed and printed a Silco Theater Poster. The posters were sold at the party, the proceeds of the sale going to the Silco Theater Renovation Project.

I have represented SC MainStreet at Grant County Day in January in Santa Fe. Two SC MainStreet Board Members and I attended the New Mexico MainStreet Winter Quarterly in Santa Fe. I presented a Case Study on the Silco Theater Renovation Project. At the end of March, I represented SC MainStreet at the National MainStreet Conference in Atlanta. These have all been wonderful opportunities to both learn about what MainStreet can offer the community and inform others of what is being accomplished in Silver City through the MainStreet program.

In March I was invited to make a presentation to the Silver City Zoning Commission on the Silco Theater Renovation Project. I also attended the monthly Historic Review Committee Meetings coordinated by the Silver City Community Development Department.

Two SC MainStreet Board Members and I attended the Conversations with Councilors and Colleagues on March 18. The program was well attended and I learned quite a bit about what we can and cannot do to improve our downtown. There is a perception that there are too many vacant buildings in downtown. Statistically the vacancy rate is about 12%. Having a few buildings available is actually beneficial to economic development because there are spaces available for businesses to open. A greater concern is buildings that are neglected. Unless the building poses a threat to public safety there isn't any way to mandate that owners take care of their property. We are hoping to continue the dialogue and find a resolution to the situation. Downtown Silver City is a destination and SC MainStreet hopes to facilitate programs that will develop enhanced pride of ownership of the buildings in downtown Silver City.

Lucy Whitmarsh, Silver City MainStreet Manager