



MAIN STREET AMERICA®

All Member Community

Settings

Community Home

Discussion 6K

Library 573

Events 0

Members 2.2K

[Expand all](#) | [Collapse all](#)

sort by thread ▾

[← Back to discussions](#)

public bathrooms



Anne Ball 09-04-2024 07:45 AM

[One of our Affiliate programs is discussing the need for public bathrooms in response to most of the ...](#)

1. public bathrooms



Coordinator

[Anne Ball](#)

Actions ▾

Posted 09-04-2024 07:45 AM

Reply



One of our Affiliate programs is discussing the need for public bathrooms in response to most of the downtown businesses not allowing the public to use their bathroom facilities unless the business happens to be a restaurant and the request is made by a guest of the establishment. A few questions below that we would welcome your thoughts on. Thank you

- What are the upfront costs? I am assuming this would vary from renting a porta potty to building a building and having to heat and provide electricity to it and connect it to the town's sewer and water systems.
- Who pays for the upfront costs and the maintenance costs? The downtown organization, the town?
- What else should we consider in exploring the possibility of providing a public bathroom in downtown Norway besides the initial and ongoing costs?

Anne Ball
Coordinating Program
Program Director, Maine Downtown Center
Maine Development Foundation
Hallowell ME
207 512-4906

2. RE: public bathrooms



Wendy Diaz del Valle

Actions ▼

Posted 09-05-2024 08:32 AM

Reply



If connections to sewer is a problem and you want something that looks much better than a traditional port-a-potty, check out www.containerpotty.com.

I saw these in downtown Indiana this summer, and they are amazing! The company is super easy to work with and the options (ADA, hand wash, remote locks, etc) are fabulous! They will even wrap them in your custom graffiti resistant graphics. I just wish I had the funds for the ones I need...

› Original Message

3. RE: public bathrooms



Steve Frevert

Actions ▼

Posted 09-05-2024 10:45 AM

Reply



We have public restrooms available in our office along with the City-owned activity center a block down the street. Our summer season includes a 22-week farmers market and concert series with beer garden. Previously we had portapotties for the events, but a couple years ago the City completed a restroom building onsite that includes men's, women's, and a family restroom. The doors are on a digital time lock; a parks department attendant replenishes supplies and checks to make sure no one stays overnight inside.

The original estimate was about \$350,000, and it came in at a whopping \$527,000. This was in 2022, when demand for contractors and materials was peaking. The building has heat and AC and was designed to be open

all year. Despite this, the City keeps it locked from November through April; apparently they don't trust that the pipes won't freeze. I thought there would be a huge uproar about a public restroom that costs more than a nice house, but surprisingly there was none.

Steve Frevert
Executive Director
Historic Valley Junction Foundation
West Des Moines IA
515 222-3642

➤ Original Message

Contact Us

P 312.610.5613

E info@mainstreet.org

Main Street America

53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 350

Chicago, IL 60604

About Us

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 40 years. Today it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | © 2023 The National Main Street Center. All Rights Reserved.

Site Designed by **Brightfind** and Powered by **Higher Logic**