



## Did You Know...

# About Main Mall Row?

So? Have you heard of it? In this month's blog post, we are going to hit you with a little history within the City of Poughkeepsie. Everyone knows about the big name malls and shopping centers around here: the Poughkeepsie Galleria, the Shoppes at South Hills, Woodbury Outlets, and the Danbury Mall. Or if you want to head a little north you have the Crossgates Mall or if you head a little south you have New York City, the mecca, with every store you could imagine. Well what if we told you there was supposed to be a mall type shopping center right on Main Street, Poughkeepsie? Would you believe us? Because you should!

In the 1970s, the city tried to create a pedestrian mall on Main Street, located between Market Street and Catherine Street. This section of the street was blocked off to car traffic and was designed in hopes that it would stimulate the growth of the central business district of the city. The primary section of stores that comprised the strip were the nine, adjoining commercial buildings located on the intersection of Main Street and Garden Street. The building on the corner being a cast iron building, a common design of buildings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (For those of you that may be unfamiliar with buildings made of cast iron, you may have heard of, or seen, the dome on the U.S. Capital Building in Washington D.C.). Those nine adjoining buildings were constructed after a fire had destroyed the previous structures in 1870.



For those of you that may have not heard of Main Mall Row before, why is that? Well, we'll tell you! The idea did not pan out as well as the city would have hoped. The main issue with Main Mall Row was the blocking off of that section of Main Street to cars. This limited parking (can you imagine even less parking around Main Street) created a lot of traffic on the side streets surrounding the stores. Problems also arose because of the construction of the East-West Arterials. All of these problems just created headaches for consumers so it was no surprise that when the South Hills Mall opened in 1978 that consumers chose to head there instead of venturing downtown. Main Mall Row came to an end in 2001 and that section of the street was reopened to car traffic.