

MAKEOVER ON MAIN STREET: **Filming begins Monday**

'Lights, camera ... stay back'



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SMART / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Studio mechanic David Best on Friday puts the finishing touches on the exterior of Jolies Hair Design in West Dundee. The shop will become "The Peerless Pharmacy" for the making of the new Tom Hanks movie, which is based on the novel, *The Road to Perdition*. Crews have been preparing Main Street storefronts for filming, which is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

Top: Kim Srajer, owner of Around the Corner Candy, shows her enthusiasm for Tom Hanks, who is coming to town this week to film scenes for a movie based on the book, *The Road to Perdition*. Srajer's store is near the movie set and she will keep it open during filming in the hopes that onlookers might stop in to buy snacks.

Glimpses of Hanks may be few as filming begins Monday

By Geneva White
STAFF WRITER

WEST DUNDEE — Chad Zalud and Shanna Browne of Elgin hope downtown West Dundee won't be too hectic when they come Monday and Tuesday to view the filming of what is touted as a major motion picture.

"Of course, to see Tom Hanks would be cool," Browne said. "That's why everybody's coming down."

Zalud and Browne were walking up and down Main Street on Friday, snapping pictures and checking out downtown buildings where crews from DreamWorks have been putting on new facades and fixing up storefronts to film part of the Sam Mendes movie based on the book, *The Road to Perdition*. Hanks is starring in the film.

Set in 1930s' Rock Island, the movie is based on the novel by former Dick Tracy comic strip writer Max Allen Collins.

"We wanted to see what the sets were going to look like," Zalud said. "It's not every day a movie is made here."

But Hanks fans and film enthusiasts shouldn't count on getting close enough to grab a lock of the superstar's hair, or even seeing anything too exciting. DreamWorks officials say the set will be closed. And although there will be a designated area



MARTY O'MARA/ THE COURIER NEWS

where the filming can be viewed, the general public is not encouraged to come downtown Monday and Tuesday.

"We're actually discouraging people from coming down," said Amanda Brand, unit publicist for DreamWorks. "It would make it more difficult in Dundee if there's too many crowds. We just want it to run as smoothly as possible."

Brand said Hanks will not even be on the set until Tuesday when he will act in an indoor scene at Cardinal Office Supply, 118 W. Main St., which has been set up to look

like an old bank.

"I'm sure they'll catch a glimpse of him, but what people have to understand is he's there to work and he's going to be working a 14-hour day," Brand said. "It's a lot of work."

Crimp in downtown parking

Even without the crowds, parking in downtown West Dundee during the filming will be difficult.

Beginning at 9 tonight, Illinois 72 will close to traffic between Fourth and Water streets until 5 a.m. Wednesday.

DreamWorks is reserving some of the public parking lots and some street parking for the company's vehicles. Parking will be restricted on the lot on the north side of Main Street, the lot east of First Street, both sides of Second Street from First American Bank to Around the Corner Candy, both sides of First Street, Oregon Avenue to the north parking lot and both sides of Oregon from Second Street to First Street, and both sides of Washington Street from First Street to Third Street.

Barricades also will be set up and officers from both the East and West Dundee police departments will be stationed east of Illinois 31 on Illinois 72 and west of Illinois 68 and 72. Only local traffic will be allowed to pass.

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FILMING

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"We don't know what to expect," said West Dundee Police Chief Dick Lovett. "We've never had a movie done in our town. People have to read the detour signs and have patience and everything should go fine."

East Dundee Police Chief Joe Pena said officers will be around the set to assist with crowd control.

DreamWorks most likely will have its own security as well, Pena said.

"We'll get through it, but closing a major highway always poses concerns," he said.

Back-door shop access

While the public is being discouraged from coming to the filming, most of the business owners downtown are keeping their shops open, allowing customers access through the back doors.

Deb Stroemer, owner of Finders Keepers Country Antiques and Gifts, 110 W. Main St., plans to serve refreshments Monday and Tuesday for the many customers she expects to see in her store.

Her storefront has been made to look just like a general store, advertising milk in the front window for 6 cents.

"Yeah, it'll be a disruption to the business, but you can't even measure what this will do for the town long term," Stroemer said. "I've seen people in town and in my shop that have never even been here before."

There is one aspect about the movie West Dundee residents can count on — the downtown will be blanketed with snow Monday and Tuesday. DreamWorks crews plan to use shaved ice to make snow during the filming.

"There's going to be a lot of snow," Brand said. "The thing about fake snow is it's better to make snow than have real snow because that way you can maintain the continuity. If you've got fake snow you can keep it looking pristine and beautiful."

ON MAIN STREET

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