

SCOTT LEWIS

M eet Scott Lewis, owner of Scott Lewis' Gardening, a yard and landscaping company that has served the Palm Beaches for more than 40 years. Here, the Florida native discusses his fond childhood memories of West Palm Beach, downtown's unique appeal and the endless networking opportunities West Palm Beach brings to the table. "It's the place to be if you're in business in Palm Beach County," Lewis says.

How I've seen downtown grow:

"I can remember going to Burdines, McCrory's or Woolworth's on Clematis. Having a milkshake at the Woolworth's short-order counter, and then going to a movie at the Florida Theater at the far east end of Clematis. That was a big day as a kid. Going down to the Hut drive-in after the movie (where Phillips Point is roughly today), filled up a Saturday outing growing up. Today, there's a whole lot more foot traffic with more people making for a vibrant city setting."

What makes downtown unique:

"Downtown's full integration, with its continuous waterfront vistas along the Intracoastal Waterway, separates it from other South Florida venues. Being a stone's throw away from one of the richest islands in the world offers numerous opportunities, especially for local small businesses to expand their reach."

Where I eat downtown:

"Anzo (formerly The Chickpea) is my favorite. However, walking along Clematis offers so much variety in foods — which lays out a terrific set of options for downtown workers and residents."

Where I shop downtown:

"I love shopping at the GreenMarket on Saturdays during season. It focuses on the support of local small businesses over national chains. This rewards those we care most about in the community."

Where I play downtown:

"The DDA and the city always have something going on downtown."



Scott Lewis poses in front of an old tractor on the side of his warehouse. PHOTO BY JIM BERIAU

THE DOWNTOWNERS

*West Palm Beach business owners dish about why they're downtown –
and why you should be, too!*

They keep it hopping with plenty of options for all ages. The Clematis Street Fountains is always fun. All the positive energy down at the Waterfront Commons is great. Clematis by Night keeps a wide variety of options for the adults to play as well!"

When I love downtown:

"The Christmas season has the Clematis core and the city both working together in doing everything they can to make the city center a terrific place

to bring friends and relatives to show off the best of the best here. The Christmas lights and the holiday fanfare make the festive season a delight for all."

Why I want to be downtown:

"Downtown still lends itself to the small-town atmosphere. You often bump into people you know when you do business downtown. It offers networking that nowhere else in the county can match. Name recognition, branding, marketing and networking

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with local connections – both in the private and public sectors – all come together in downtown's beehive of daily business activities."

Why you should visit downtown:

"Downtown West Palm Beach is the county seat for Palm Beach County. As such, it sits at the center of the largest county east of the Mississippi River. It's easy to conduct business, it's clean, and it offers a safe atmosphere. The city center truly is the county center."

— Analisa Castillo