

Historic Downtown Chipley Merchant's Association
www.downtownchipley.com

July 15, 2008 Meeting

Attendees: Antique Mall Jamie Fielding Cheryl McCall
 Baxley's Cleaners Foster Folly News Barbara James

We had such a great meeting !!! There was so much energy and contagious excitement. I wish you all could have attended. It has been a long time since we met and as you can see the attendance was down a lot. We see the need to have a better way of staying informed. Several of you have said you didn't receive the email and calling everyone takes up a lot of time. Maybe we can start a phone tree so each of us becomes responsible for calling a couple of members. We also see how quickly our bond breaks down. For us to become the force we hope to be we all have to stay dedicated. If you don't get a call or an email, please be proactive and call or ask someone else.

At this last meeting Cheryl made the most delicious lasagna and salad you have ever tasted. Fresh tomato sauce made from her garden. It was REALLY good. We talked briefly about the Watermelon Festival. Plans are already being made for next year. We are going to ask Colby Peel to move the Friday night activities to the gazebo and train depot.

The "Christmas Festival" was our exciting topic. Kathy Foster presented the idea of doing something in conjunction with the Arts Council. We know the Christmas Parade is going to be the first Saturday in December. Since there will be a crowd anyway that day we will tie in with it. Put this date on your calendar now. December 6th.

Here are some of the ideas:

Margo Anderson will perform at the Gazebo at 2:00

Christmas Parade at 3:00

Downtown Merchants will have a float in the parade. Baxley's has a trailer we can decorate and we're thinking of a skyline with our store names on them. We'll have shoppers riding it.

Santa at 4:00

From 2:00 - 6:00 the Artists will display their art in our stores. If you can dedicate some space in your store please let Kathy Foster know. There will a directory for downtown shoppers leading them to your store to view the art.

Gene and Greg will dress in period costume and sell or give away roasted chestnuts and wassail.

Carolers from different churches on the corners dressed in costume singing Christmas carols.

Fire Department will sell hamburgers and hotdogs.

Contest to see which store can be the best decorated. Let the townspeople vote.

We briefly plan our Spring event to be "Crazy Day".

Next meeting is Thursday, July 24th, at 5:15 at Gloria's. Gary Clark will have the results of the Strategic Planning Meetings.

Next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 5th at 5:15 at New Beginning Weight Loss.

Jackie Baxley, Secretary
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