

REDISCOVER *historic* MARTINSVILLE

August 2009

NEWSLETTER

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RHM NEWS

We are well on our way in our quest to revitalize the downtown area. The Martinsville Comprehensive Plan, put together by the Strategic Development Group, Inc. of Bloomington, with much help from folks who live in and love Martinsville, is a plan that is chocked full of information for revitalizing our town. Because of the alliance with the City Council and with your volunteering spirit, our efforts to complete the application for the Community Foundation Fund is about to bear fruit.

In a recent email Joanne Stuttgen wrote, “the City Council has moved its regular third Monday meeting from August 17 to August 24. This is good news for us, as we are able to advertise the grant project and hold a public hearing at the August 24th meeting. It is my intent to inform every downtown property owner that this project is moving forward. Each one must understand what this means for him or her”.

Indiana Main Street (IMS), which we have been affiliated with since December '08, was established to provide economic revitalization and professional assistance to participating communities. IMS, and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), has been a tremendous help to us with the CFF grant. They both greatly encourage the revitalization and restoration of downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns.

In July a committee consisting of RHM volunteers, Joanne Stuttgen, Ron Stanhouse, John Badger, Danny Stewart, Jamie Thompson, Gary Lester, Art Brill, Karen Melaniphy and Del Chafey, heard presentations from four architectural/economic development groups and picked The *Odle McGuire Shook Corporation* (OMS) because they offer architectural, planning, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, and technology services to cities just like us, and will help us plan for Downtown Martinsville's future revitalization. We look forward to working with OMS and in the not too distant future they will be putting together open meetings meant to gather your thoughts and dreams for Downtown Martinsville.



EVENTS TO BE HELD ON THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE

2009

Come join the fun

2010

*** August 8 10:00 am**
Wellspring Blue Grass & BBQ

August 15 5:30 & 7:45pm
Concert on the Square

September 19 4:00 pm
Apple Fest & Dance
Square, Hip Hop, Swing,
Ballroom

*** October 8th-11th**
50th Fall Foliage Festival

October 31 4:00 pm
Halloween on the Square

November 14th 10:00 am
Holiday Open House

December 12th 10:00 am
Country Christmas

March 17 St Patty's Day

April 3 Easter Egg Hunt

May 1 Picking Petals/prizes

June 5 Summer Fest

July 3 Independence

*** August 14**
Wellspring Blue Grass BBQ

September 18 Apple Fest &
Dance Square, Hip Hop,
Ball Room, Swing

*** October 7 -10** Fall Foliage

October 30 Halloween on Sq

November 13
Holiday Open House

December 11
Country Christmas

***denotes on square but not
a Rediscover event**

Concert dates TBA



If you haven't ventured downtown to the promotions this year there is still time to do so. Also, there is ample opportunity to join in the fun and help the Promotions Committee with the events. Your special talent is needed to put these events over the top. The next page tells a little of what has happened in each event so far.

SEE YOU THERE, ON THE SQUARE!

PROMOTIONS DOWNTOWN

Easter egg hunt 4/11

The activities of Rediscover Historic Martinsville rolled out with an April 11 Easter egg hunt. There were a few new twists this year which included splitting the hunt into age groups instead of all of the children hunting for eggs at the same time.

A scavenger hunt for 11- to 14-year-olds was held after the Easter egg hunt in the style of the CBS "Amazing Race". The Rev. Mark Poindexter read the Easter story from the Bible at the gazebo on the courthouse lawn. In addition to the hunt, other activities on the public square included face painting and coloring contest.

In the Kivett Building breakfast was served at 7 a.m., catered by Water to Wine Catering. The breakfast was \$5 per person and included a photo with the Easter Bunny. Many vendors were set up and many enjoyed the indoor shopping.

Picking Petals 5/9

The event included a Morgan County Shriner's fish fry, vendors, carnival rides and a chance to win shopping money at local stores. To win, people traveled to participating stores around the square to pick up a handmade tulip. After they received a tulip from each vendor listed they were entered into a drawing to win one of three gift certificates. Organizers originally planned on giving out one gift certificate, however because of a larger than expected turnout, they added more prizes. The \$100, \$50 and \$30 gift certificates were to be used at any participating vendor downtown. Participating vendors included Antiques on Main, Art Gallery and Framing, Artworks, Berries and Ivy, Blackwell Antiquities, Espresso Coffee Bar and Antiques, J.C. Ferguson, Jeremy's 252 Cafe, Keller's Office Supply, Krypton Comics, Martinsville Candy Kitchen, Oh So Chic, Peace Frogs, Primitive Pleasures, Queen Anne's Lace, Soap and Sun, Super Sports and The Farmer's Wife. Other activities included a Make It and Take It which was Mother's Day cards.

Farmer's Market

The Martinsville's Farmer's Market began in May and will run into October this year. The markets' biggest plus is their link to the local community. The group wants the market to support local farmers and growers, promote a healthy lifestyle, offer safe products and encourage social gathering. Martinsville's market is linked to Rediscover Historic Martinsville and its special events. Both venues will feed off of the other. This is a good way to meet folks and pick up some very good home grown products.

Summerfest 6/6

Activities included: a Lions Club fish fry. The Martinsville Senior Center had great desserts at their Strawberry Festival. There was a children's carnival, and many vendor booths.

There was a cornhole tournament with an entry fee of \$5 per 2 person team. The winners of the tournament took home half of the entry fees. The kids also had a free "make it and take it" booth where they made a gift for Father's Day.

Car Show 7/4

Despite the heavy rain, many people celebrated July 4th on the square enjoying carnival rides, vendor tents, food, crafts and an antique car show. The event kicked off with a memorial celebration and a recitation of the Declaration of Independence. The Color Guard and Legion Riders were also there. Mayor Phil Deckard was on hand to speak at the celebration and auction off pies and cakes at the gazebo. The pies and cakes were all donated, and Deckard was able to get \$57 for a strawberry rhubarb pie. At the Make it and Take it Tent more than 40 children were able to make patriotic pinwheels, visors or gliders. Something new was the free fingerprint and ID cards. An I-Pod Idol event, aimed at teenagers and young adults, allowed contestants to karaoke with their iPods. The cornhole tournament was the only event stopped by the rain.

Wellspring Bluegrass and Barbecue Festival 8/8

Barbecue and sounds of bluegrass music was enjoyed by many folks last Saturday. This is an annual event created to raise operating funds to provide counseling and help break the cycle of generational poverty.

There was also face painting, craft vendors and a book sale. Also, Rediscover Historic Martinsville hosted a cornhole tournament at the same time on the other side of the square.

ART SANCTUARY

We are very fortunate to have in our community a forward thinker in a fellow volunteer for RHM. Ron Stanhouse purchased the old Methodist Church on the corner of Sycamore and Pike streets and has turned it into the Art Sanctuary. You have probably already heard of some of the successes of the Art Sanctuary but the latest is very cool.

Ron asked Gretchen Hunt, artist at the Art Sanctuary, to paint a pictorial of Martinsville and the results.....well see for yourself.



This portrayal of Martinsville is already available as a postcard which is available at the Candy Kitchen, Blackwell Antiquities and Gifts, and soon to be other places around the square. Thanks Ron for providing a whimsical and yet down to earth look at our city.



190 North Sycamore Street

www.artsanctuaryindiana.com

BOARD MEETING NEWS

6/25/09 –

Rediscover Historic Martinsville, a recognized Indiana Main Street program, has partnered with the Community Foundation of Morgan County to Manage their fund account. This provides Rediscover the opportunity to raise and account for funds as they work on Martinsville's downtown redevelopment.

Ruth Russie, representing the Community Foundation, received the check from the

Rediscover Historic Martinsville Board of Directors after the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce transferred the check to Rediscover. The Chamber assisted in the launch of the local Main Street group and their transition from a committee to an independent organization. Present for the transfer of monies were (left to right) Ron Stanhouse, John Badger, Ruth Rusie, Karen Melaniphy, Jackie Blackwell, Del Chafey, Art Brill, Bob Elliott (Chamber Chairman), Jamie Thompson (Chamber Executive Director) and Joanne Stuttgen.



On June 19th, because of conflicting, and confusing, information received at the Mayor's office, he requested one person to be his direct link to Rediscover Historic Martinsville. His recommendation was Tina Chafey to be RHM's liaison to his office. All questions and requests should be conveyed through her in order to maintain a good, and true, channel of communication with the city and the Mayor's office.

7/23/09

The board decided an open forum would be good for several board meetings each year. A schedule will be set for these meetings and announced at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

The board discussed Director's and Officer's Insurance which some Main Street programs purchase for the protection of their director's and officer's. It was recommended to us that we consider this insurance but it is very expensive and not feasible at this time. Liability insurance is purchased for RHM and those who work at the downtown events and the folks that visit our promotions.

The painting Ron Stanhouse commissioned was discussed as a promotional item and fund raiser, and it was decided to purchase postcards and provide them at our events for a nominal fee. At the Morgan County Fair we sold them for \$1 each but they will be sold by merchants on the square for \$2 unless other special event pricing is determined. Other promotional items using this painting may be considered for raising funds.

Joanne Stuttgen brought the board up to date regarding the Community Focus Grant. The latest, from her email on 8/4, is the City Council has moved its regular third Monday meeting from August 17 to August 24. This is good news for us, as we are able to advertise the grant project and hold a public hearing at the August 24th meeting. I will do my best to get the word out via the radio, the newspaper, the chamber website, RHM's list, and any other method. It is my intent to inform every downtown property owner that this project is moving forward. Each one must understand what this means for him or her.

So, put the public hearing on your calendar: August 24th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

OTHER NEWS

Thanks to all who volunteered to work in the booth at the Morgan County Fair!

Jackie and Chris Blackwell, Blackwell Antiquities & Gifts

John and Pam Badger, The Martinsville Candy Kitchen

Ron Stanhouse, Art Sanctuary

Abby Havron

Terri Barnes

Mark and Joanne Stuttgen

Danny Stewart

Darrin Maxwell

Jamie Thompson

Tina and Del Chafey

Many surveys were taken by the volunteers and the results will be made available soon. The kids were excited with the “make it and take it”, and they were able to keep cool with the fans they created which depicted what they loved/liked about Martinsville. We had many folks spend some time looking at the historic pictures of downtown and reminiscing of days gone by. Thanks to Jamie Thompson, Executive Director of the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce for donating the excellent display stand for the booth.

Monthly Meetings:

Promotions Committee – 1st Thursday of the month @ 6:30

Organization Committee - 2nd Thursday of the month 7:00

Design Committee – 3rd Thursday of the month @ 6:00

Economic Restructuring – TBD

Official Board – 4th Thursday @ 7:00

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