

REDISCOVER *historic* MARTINSVILLE

September 2009

NEWSLETTER

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RHM NEWS

Joanne Stuttgen reports on the progress of grants being pursued by the Economic Restructuring Committee:

If you are looking for financial assistance in repairing and rehabilitating your downtown building then we have a plan for you!

The City of Martinsville, in partnership with Rediscover Historic Martinsville, is in the final stage of applying for a \$50,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. This grant will be used to hire Odle, McGuire and Shook, an Indianapolis architectural and engineering firm, to research and prepare a downtown revitalization plan.

A public hearing on this project was held on August 24. The hearing was part of the scheduled meeting of the Martinsville Common Council and provided all who attended with a valuable opportunity to learn about the downtown revitalization plan and what it could mean for building owners.

The downtown revitalization plan will have three major components:

1. A retail and marketing study and plan; 2. A facade rehabilitation plan for selected buildings, including a structural condition assessment, facade renderings, and cost estimates for the rehabilitation of selected buildings and anticipated financial results (e. g. rental income); and 3. A landscape improvement plan.

As the owner of a downtown building, you could realize financial benefits from collaborating with the structural engineer and architect. Upon the completion of this plan, the City, and Rediscover Historic Martinsville, intend to pursue a \$500,000 implementation grant to make landscape improvements and to establish a facade improvement grant program that will direct money into the rehabilitation of privately, and publicly owned buildings.

Other possible uses of grant funds are the development of downtown gateways, a public festival-marketplace area and public restrooms. We anticipate that \$500,000 won't go nearly as far as we need or would like.

If you have questions, please contact any of the members of the Grant Steering Committee listed below.

Joanne Stuttgen, Chair 349-1537
Jamie Thompson 342-8110
John Badger 342-0744
Karen Melaniphy (630) 417-3267

Ron Stanhouse (812) 345-1091
Gary Lester 342-9611
Del Chafey (317) 965-7712
Danny Stewart 346-8144



Some good thoughts from our newest Director,

As we come towards the end of our first year of activities on the square, let us reflect on what we have accomplished.

When we started this adventure into improving our town we were just a bunch of people that gathered together at two meetings in one night. One at the library for a meeting on public transit and the other at the Candy Kitchen for our first meeting about RHM. Of course at that time we had no idea what to call our organization, but we muddled through it as best we could. We had many different thoughts and opinions but I think the best idea we had was to keep politics out of it. After a few meetings, we eventually broke things down to committees. With the help of the state main street organizer of course.

The enthusiasm was there, all we needed was to get the ball rolling. And what do you know, we had our first activity within a couple of months. Country Christmas on the square. That was one cold day and the wind didn't help any either. Of course somebody had to take some goofy pictures along with the good ones of Santa and the wagon rides.

Unfortunately Christmas and New Years came and went and we stopped doing anything. And I was beginning to think we were done before we ever got started. Thankfully, with February, came a new sense of enthusiasm. Unfortunately, we had lost a few people by then. It's amazing how quickly people lose interest in something. Luckily, those of us that remained got to work on coming up with new ideas and activities.

After nearly a year, we have come a long way already from where we started. We have had a few ups and downs. Our first event of the year had to be canceled because of insurance issues, but we managed to correct that problem on our own. We've had more people than we expected at some events, less at others. It hasn't been easy, but we've stuck together to make it work. We've got the ground work laid for our first grant. Pooling our thoughts together on what we would like to see done. Interviewed and selected a firm for the layout of our ideas.

Yes, we've come a long way in only a years time. Many of us had doubts about each other, realizing along the way that we each had something to contribute for the betterment of all.

So now here we are, at the end of a long year. We have all put in a lot of hard work to get here. And in all the ups and downs we've had, I'd say we have a very bright future ahead of us. It will take some time and we are sure to have many more ups and downs, but we will get through it. After all, we made it through the first year didn't we and I have yet to hear anyone say that what we are doing is not worth the effort. So let us remember where we started that day in the library and the Candy Kitchen and look forward to an even brighter future. And let us resign ourselves to making Martinsville like America by making it a shining city upon a hill.

GOD bless,

Danny Stewart



Apple Fest

Saturday September 19th

On the Square



Chili or Ham & Beans Supper \$5.00

FREE FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

4pm Western Square Dance

6:30 Ballroom, Swing

7:30 Contemporary Hip Hop



If you can count to 4, know your right hand from your left hand, or just want to sit and watch, you can join the fun.

Bring your apple desserts, non refrigerated, to be judged by your peers. Anything made with apples; pie, cake, you name it. You can drop them off at the Martinsville Candy Kitchen or bring them on Saturday for the judging.



SEE YA THERE, ON THE SQUARE!



Get ready for the 50th Anniversary of the



FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 8th, 2009 Through Sunday, October 11th, 2009

Congratulations from RHM to the Festival Board for what looks like a great weekend coming up.

Find information on event schedules

on the web <http://www.fallfoliagefest.com> or call 765/342/0332

PROMOTIONS DOWNTOWN

EVENTS TO BE HELD ON THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE

2009

Come join the fun

2010

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

SUCCESS!!!

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

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

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

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!

DUST OFF THOSE OLD COSTUMES OR COME AS YOU ARE
(now that's a scary thought) TO HALLOWEEN ON THE SQUARE.
IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



Oh my!
Is that
Toto
too?



Rediscover Historic Martinsville's Official Board of Directors –

Art Brill	Real Living - Town and Country Real Estate	765 349 7653
Danny Stewart	Resident	765 349 8144
Eric Bowlen	East Middle School Principal, City Councilman	765 318 3039
Jackie Blackwell	Building owner, Blackwell Antiquities and Gifts, Board Secretary	765 352 8260
Joanne Stuttgen	Morgan County Historic Preservation Society President, Martinsville Planning and Zoning	765 349 1537
Ron Stanhouse	Owner, Kivett Building and Art Sanctuary, Economic Restructuring Committee Chair	812 345 1091
John Badger	Building Owner, Martinsville Candy Kitchen, Board Vice-President, Promotions Committee Chair	765 318 5707
Karen Melaniphy	Owner, Odd Fellows Building, Board Treasurer, Design Committee Chair	630 417 3267
Kenny Hale	President, County Council	765 342 1060
Del Chafey	Resident, Board President	765 342 6082

Each board member has committed to serving Rediscover Historic Martinsville , the mission, the vision, and the membership. Don't let your questions or problems go unanswered; rely on your leadership for answers.

August 27th Board Meeting –

Each committee chair reports on progress, problems and opportunities from the previous month; Promotion Committee - John commended the concert chairman for a job well done. Everyone had a good time, good music and the dining establishments stayed open for the crowd.

September is AppleFest with an apple dessert judging, dancing under the stars and chili or ham and beans for \$5.00.

October will be pumpkin carving, spook poop scoop (you'll have to attend to find out what this is) and trunk-a-treat as well as costumes.

Economic Restructuring Committee - Ron reported that Odle, McGuire and Shook were selected to research and prepare a downtown revitalization plan, and the grant work is going really well.

Design Committee - Karen said they are basically waiting on the downtown plan and working to build bridges with the building owners. A letter will be sent to the owners as to what they will be able to do when the grant funds become available.

Organization Committee – Jackie reported that the committee is working on volunteer recruitment, the visibility of our organization, interfacing with business associations and residents. We continue to increase the public awareness of RHM by maintaining the information booth at festivals, and working on creating a web site as well as putting out the newsletter.

The board meeting will be moved to the third Thursday of the month beginning in October.

Weeds and trash in the downtown will continue to be a problem. The Organization Committee is working on a plan called Adopt-A-Block, but it will take a coalition of volunteers and building/business owners to keep our downtown looking good for visitors and customers.

A discussion regarding the need for a Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) was revived and many feel now is the time to act. It may be difficult in the near future to obtain a CVB for the county which could bring in needed funds for tourism; bringing folks in from outlying counties and states, spending dollars in our motels, restaurants and other downtown businesses; while not raising taxes on Morgan County citizens.

The next scheduled meeting will be September 24th.

**from the
Organization Committee**

Please Support These Martinsville Businesses who support the
renewal of our economic and cultural community and the efforts
of Rediscover Historic Martinsville.

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Company</u>
Michelle	Collins	ambienceartisticphotography@yahoo.com	765.346.7178	Ambience Photography
Melanie	Perkon	jimperkon@iquest.net		Antiques on Main
Sally	Hedges	artworksofmartinsville.com		Artworks
Linda	Barrett	artworksofmartinsville.com	765.342.2320	Artworks Of Martinsville
Joni	North	jonibcdirector@yahoo.com	765.315.8249	BeautiControl/South Central DSAA&C Assoc.
Roberta	Snow	berriesivyinc@yahoo.com	765.342.7722	Berries and Ivy
Jackie	Blackwell	blackwellantiques@gmail.com	765.352.8260	Blackwell Antiquities & Gifts
Dave	Belbot	sidewindermidget@yahoo.com		DB Antiques
Sarah	Fredericksen	Dancersedgedc.com	765.342.5820	Dancer's Edge
Deanna	Barley	delynjewelry@hotmail.com	765.342.7300	Delyn Jewelry
John	Anderson	meltencrob@yahoo.com		Ellis Jewelry
Patty	Meyer	patty10135@yahoo.com		Espresso Coffee Bar
Ron and Vina	Myers	134 E Morgan Street	765.342.8155	Family Clothing Store & Ron Myers Plumbing
Bryan	Collier	BCollier@hrblock.com		H & R Block
Roger & Sharon	Pearson	hprints44@yahoo.com	765.349.8830	Hand Prints Ink
Kim and Jill		jkscheesecakecafe@att.net		J K Cheesecake Cafe
Jackie	Cook	cook.jackie81@yahoo.com		J.C. Ferguson Co
Chip	Keller	kellers.os@comcast.net	765.349.1215	Keller Office Supply
Eric	Singer	krypton_comics@yahoo.com	765.352.9493	Krypton Comics
John and Pam	Badger	pbadger13@yahoo.com	765.318.9621	Martinsville Candy Kitchen
Tammy and Anthony	Hiner	achiner@comcast.net	765.342.3444	Matrix Graphics
Kathy	Maxwell	rmax32@scican.net		Maxwell's Art Gallery & Framing
Melissa	Schiff	melissa.schiff@melissaschiffcpa.com	765.349.8272	Melissa A Schiff, CPA PC
Mary	Ferling	ferling66@hotmail.com	765.349.7330	Oh So Chic
Cindy	Goodnight	gary_goodnight@sbcglobal.net	765.342.0900	Peace Frogs
Phil	Deckard	mayor@martinsville.in.gov		Deckard & Assoc. Real Estate & Auctioneering
Phil	Deckard II	prdeckard@martinsville.in.gov		Deckard & Assoc. Real Estate & Auctioneering
Tonya	Arnold	tarnold17@hotmail.com	765.349.8990	Primitive Pleasures
Jill	Finney	ffinney46151@yahoo.com	765.342.4660	Queen Anne's Lace
Art	Brill	art.brill@realliving.com	765.346.1232	Real Living Town and Country Real Estate
Mandy & Tony	Marsh	mandy@remembrancephotos.com		Remembrance Photography
Tony	Demott	supersports@iquest.net	765.342.9870	Super Sports
Heather	Inabnit	h.inabnit@yahoo.com	317.313.0378	Tupperware
Thomas	Delaney	trdfuh714@yahoo.com	765.349.3369	The Olde Northside Bar & Grille
Brad	Nicholson	water-towine@hotmail.com	765.318.7222	Water To Wine Catering

EDITORIALS

My letter to the editor...

I'm in love with our town again. Last Saturday night our family and some dear friends rode bikes and walked to a free concert on the square. That evening was comfortably warm, a bit breezy with a feeling of community in the air. We situated our group on the inner edge of the crowd and settled in. Sodas, ice cream and delicious treats were available from eateries that had graciously stayed open to serve though-out the concert. As I sat there, I suddenly realized that I could see so many folks who where woven in and out of the fabric of my life while living in Martinsville. The music was so enjoyable, I was mesmerized. Jazz, and the kind of jazz that not only made Reverend Bill Martin tap his feet, but my nine year old son couldn't help but shimmy some kind of jig while waiting for the next round of tag to start. We were all disappointed when the evening came to an end, but now I can look forward to the September 19th "Apple Fest and Dance". So here's a sincere thank-you to Rediscover Historic Martinsville. This was authentic small town America at its best.

Elaine Elkin

Committee Members:

My family had the privilege of attending the first Concert on the Square. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. I have always wanted to attend those in Bloomington but did not. Now I don't have to. I really appreciate what you are doing for Martinsville. By the way, there were several older couples in the crowd that I did not know, not to say that I know everyone, but they may have been from out in the County. Isn't that wonderful! Thanks again for such a superb job!

Mary Lou Peden
Clerk-Treasurer
City Of Martinsville

LINKS:

<http://www.americantowns.com/in/martinsville>

<http://www.martinsvillechamber.com/>

<http://www.in.gov/ocra/>

<http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/>

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

Official Board – 4th Thursday @ 7:00

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