

Downtown Herald

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January 2008

The Corner Chair

Dear Friends,

There is something about the end of the year that makes the beginnings and endings of life all the more poignant. The Christmas season usually means extended families getting together. We rejoice in the fellowship and we remember those that have left us. The end of the year is a time for reflection. Although, if you were to base your view of the end of the year on television, you would think that nothing matters so much as weight loss and stopping smoking.

For me, it's the music that makes the season. I remember singing Silent Night in the church choir as a teen on Christmas Eve while a blanket of new snow fell silently outside. I was feeling somewhat nostalgic when my brother and I attended a Christmas party with my parents and a couple dozen of their friends in Henderson . . . not exactly a rockin' crowd. The primary focus of the party was the singing of Christmas carols. It was the best present my brother and I could have given our folks. My mother basked in the glow of maternal pride. I mentioned my Silent Night memory, and we realized that each of us remembered that snowy Christmas Eve.

On the other end of the emotional spectrum was the recent death of John Collier. The Colliers attended that same church with us growing up. John was the father of twins, Brian and Steve, with whom I grew up in Delmar, New York. You did not think we would get through a New Year's Corner Chair without my mentioning Delmar, did you? Steve and I played in a rock band together in high school. We rehearsed in the Collier's basement. Now, John Collier was an accomplished pianist and trombonist. He played big band music. I know he must have cringed hearing our thunderous, adolescent attempts at rock & roll. Even though our parents did not necessarily understand (or even like) the music we were playing, they realized the importance of our doing something creative and artistic.

Today, Steve is a music teacher and choral director in a school in upstate New York and music is still pretty big in my life too. When I heard of his father's passing, I wanted to do something other than the typical flowers. Stephanie and I ended up making a donation in memory of John Collier to the Save The Music Foundation, an organization dedicated to keeping music in our schools. I am sure you have heard all the statistics about kids doing better in their academic subjects when they also play music. Unfortunately, music and the arts are quickly vanishing from the curricula of schools across the country. I would contend that it is now more important than ever for organizations like ours to make sure that our

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Small Town Main Street News

Economic Restructuring is looking at February for a downtown planning meeting. Priority projects from our last community meeting are being completed and it is time to revisit our needs and set goals and objectives for the next several years of work. We are seeing new interest in buildings downtown and are working with several potential new businesses.

The Design sub-committee: Design sent out a request for artist's qualifications. The deadline for response to the call was December 31st. The response was low and the committee will re-issue the Call for Qualifications. The sub-committee will share the three finalists concept with the Board to determine the selected artist and artwork. If you would like to be involved in the planning process feel free to attend the sub-committee meetings and participate.

Promotions Join the sub-committee and help plan 2008 "in the Park" events and programs. Call Erika at 792-5142 ext 228

REMINDER: Tuesday January 8th, 12 NOON

Downtown Board will meet at Holiday Inn, Washington Street for a Lunch Board meeting

If you have questions about these or other projects contact Brent Kanipe @ 792-5142



Christmas singing in the Park brought out a crowd to enjoy the carols and hot chocolate. Thanks to the kids for helping make decorations for the tree.

Williamston Downtown, Inc

January 8, 2007

Holiday Inn

Washington Street

Call to order	12:00 pm
Invocation	12:01
Minutes	12:05
Financial	12:10
Sub-committees	12:15
Economic restructuring	
Design	
Promotions	
Arts Council	12:40
Friends of Courthouse	12:45
Tourism Development	12:50
Other	12:55
Adjournment	1:00 pm

Corner Chair cont.....community continues to foster a spirit of creativity. We need to support other organizations that are dedicated to making music, art and theater accessible to our kids. I cannot imagine my life without music and it makes me sad to think of the growing number of children who do not experience the joy and magic of music. As we put our shoulders to the wheel at the start of a new year, let us make sure that our children grow up knowing the transcendent beauty of music.

David



“Before” photo to the Arts Council building. The project has been assisted by the Downtown façade grant program. This was priority 2 of Downtown long range planning. WDI is proud to be a partner with the Arts Council and their success.

Promotions is looking for artists, bands, and ideas for the spring and summer “in the Park” series. If you are interested, have suggestions or want to join the Promotions sub-committee contact Erika Martin 252-792-5142

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 12th 7pm**
Christine Lavin Concert @ Martin County Auditorium presented by Arts Council.
- Jan. 18 & 19**
Big Daddy Motorsports Truck & Tractor Pull @ Bob Martin Center Admission
- Feb 2-3**
Fuzzy and Fun Open Horse Show @ Bob Martin Center Free
- Feb. 9 & 10**
Parelli Natural Horsemanship 2008 USA Tour @ Bob Martin Center
- Feb. 14-17**
2008 Martinganza Horse Show @ Bob Martin Center
- Feb. 22 & 23**
Old Ford VFD Survivor Series Rodeo @ Bob Martin Center
- March 8 & 9th**
Eastern Hunter Assoc. Spring Indoor Horse Show @ Bob Martin Center

Check out these and other events @ www.visitmartincounty.com or www.martincountync.com



The Arts Council Building continues to take shape with much of the outside work completed. The Cannon Foundation recently awarded the Arts Council grant funds to help with the front façade renovation cost.

Seen on Main Drag.....

Chris Farrior visiting Clarks’ Pharmacy, Jim Batchelor walking to courthouse, Linwood Boyd entering Post Office,

Williamston Downtown, Inc.
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