



GALAX DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Working to Benefit the Community of Galax, Virginia

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Merchants, Professionals, and Community in Partnership

Issue 15

No Cost Advertising Opportunity

On July 25 and 26, Galax will be hosting a conference swim meet at the community pool on South Main Street. We have been given the opportunity to prepare an information packet for the families of the visiting competitors from Pulaski, Dobson, Carroll, Wytheville, Reeves, Elkin, and Statesville.

The GDA will be including a Membership Map & Directory in each bag. Our members are encouraged to put additional incentives or information in the bag in hopes of enticing visitors to your business. Members may wish to print and distribute a special offer or coupon for attendees, or perhaps a free gift with purchase to draw them in. We will be preparing 140 bags for competitor's families.

The DEADLINE for getting your information in the packet is MONDAY MAY 12th. You can drop off your promotional info to Terri at Rooftop or to Bernadette Hodges at the Galax Smokehouse.

**Please Be Reminded to Vote! Galax City Council Election
Tues. May 6th**

GDA BOARD ELECTIONS MAY 5TH

Nominations for four open seats on the Galax Downtown Association Executive Committee were held at the membership meeting on April 7, 2008. We were pleased to have a large number of members present at that meeting to participate in the discussion.

The board positions for the upcoming term are:

President

VP – Marketing

VP – Community Relations

VP – Operations

Past President

Secretary

Treasurer

Team Leader – Marketing

Team Leader – Community Relations

On May 5, 2008, elections will be held at the membership meeting in the lower level of Rooftop at 6:15 pm for the following positions. The individuals nominated at the last meeting for these positions is also listed.

President
Sandra Hankley

VP – Comm. Relations
Bernadette Hodges

VP – Operations
Sharon Ritchie

Secretary
Ellen Holland

There was only one person nominated for each position although ample opportunity was given for others to step forward. Write in candidates will be allowed on the ballot.

The GDA is honored to have these qualified, talented, and benevolent volunteers, willing to accept the nomination and the

responsibilities of the position. It goes without saying that the GDA has made an enormous amount of progress in the past 18 months. As stated previously, the positions are now 2 year terms with 4 seats elected each year. With this new system, we can continue our forward momentum on current projects and emphasize marketing Galax as a major destination location to a regional audience.

In order to exercise your vote, an individual must be a paid member of the GDA, be the designated representative from the business member, and have met the minimum attendance requirement of 3 meetings. A list of all qualified voters was available for viewing at the last meeting and will be available at the May 5th meeting, prior to the election.

**Next GDA Meeting
Monday, May 5th
6:15 pm at Rooftop**

GDA PRODUCTS NOW AVAILABLE AT ROOFTOP

The new merchandise is available for purchase at Rooftop featuring the new city "Pick" logo. Of course, GLX bumper stickers will look great on any car or instrument case. Souvenir glasses are collectible and make great tokens for visitors to take home. Ladies will enjoy zippered hoodies tailored to fit their female figures. Roll up fleece blankets are also a fun but functional gift or keepsake from a Galax vacation.

Products Continued on back...

VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER DEDICATION CEREMONY

Bronze Plaques ordered by the Galax Historical Found. have arrived and will soon be installed.

Charles B. Morris, Vietnam War Hero, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson Morris, grandson of Bedford Morris and great grandson of Mary Morris, who was the daughter of John Morris's pioneer of Carroll County. Charles was born in the Pipers Gap section of Carroll County. He and his wife, Lillian Edwards graduated from Coal Creek High School. After graduation, Charles went into the Army, served in Korea in the Combat Engineers. After he was discharged, he worked for Galax Mirror Co.

Then the Vietnam War came along and Charles re-enlisted. It was June 29, 1966, a dark morning on a jungle plain 35 miles south east of Saigon. Morris' squad led the third platoon of Company A of the US Army 173rd Airborne's 503rd Infantry Regiment 2nd Battalion. The platoon was out alone and Sgt. Morris had spotted something odd. Five hours and thirty wounds later, Morris was still dragging himself from man to man, praising his fighters and telling the wounded to hang on when a relief force finally arrived.

In October 1966, Sgt. Morris received the Distinguished Service Cross from President Johnson in Vietnam. A year later in November 1967, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, and all the honors that his State and Nation could bestow upon a returning hero.

He was the first person to receive the Key to the City of Galax in a Welcome Home Ceremony on January 14, 1967. Morris died August 22, 1996 and is buried in the Morris Family Cemetery in Carroll County, Virginia. The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 710 will hold a Dedication Ceremony, Memorial Day, May 26, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. to rededicate the Chapter as the Charles B. Morris Memorial Chapter 710. The Chapter is located at 115 West Grayson Street. The public is invited to attend.

Thank you, Frank Sayers of the Vietnam Veterans of America for providing this information. Please join us on Memorial Day to celebrate the accomplishments of our honored veterans.

Products continued...

Please send customers down to Rooftop when looking for Galax souvenirs. It helps the GDA with fundraising from product sales and Rooftop receives 30% of every purchase. In addition, it gets people in the door of the wonderful heritage craft shop that visitors sometimes overlook.

Members of the GDA can purchase products or clothing for their own enjoyment at a reduced rate of 15% off regular price before or after general meetings. So bring your checkbook; we've got some great stuff!!

NEW RIVER CEDAR HOMES GRAND OPENING

New River Cedar Homes announces their Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting to be held on Thursday, May 15th at 5:00 pm followed by an open house with door prizes and light refreshments until 7 pm. Please come out to 106 N Main St and welcome Galax's premier home builder to the neighborhood!

Phone 877-38-CEDAR

SPRING CLEANING

Now that spring has arrived and the weather is pleasant, business owners are encouraged to get outside and spiff up your storefront. The winter leaves debris stuck in spider webs and dust layers on everything.

Now that we have attracted visitors here with maps and advertising, let's try to make the best impression possible. Take a look at your storefront from a tourist's perspective and spruce up. It would be greatly appreciated if you would also pay some attention to empty storefronts and sweep those too. Let's put on our best face for the summer travel season!



MAKE DOWNTOWN ALIVE AFTER 5

The GDA board is exploring the level of interest for a Friday night event in downtown that focuses on the young adults of our community. Ours would be modeled after other successful "Alive After 5" events with music and an casual atmosphere to encourage milling, meeting, and merriment.

The event has several potential benefits: to create an event to get residents downtown to check out shopping and dining options, capitalize on the influx of people downtown for the Friday night Rex performance, engage the young adults in our community and inform them of opportunities to become involved.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the GDA to cultivate relationships with an often ignored but important demographic, to increase awareness of our business offerings, draw folks from other communities and showcase an active, vibrant downtown environment. We will discuss this at our future meetings and have begun to form the committee.



