

Downtown Herald

Volume 15 Issue 7

May 2017

The Corner Chair

Friends,

Although summer hasn't arrived yet, you couldn't tell it with these hot afternoons we have been having. It seems like the water and summer adventures are calling our names!

That was certainly the case for all the paddlers who attended Roanoke River Partner's Spring Paddle Days at Moratoc Park on April 23rd. Everyone had a great time paddling the Roanoke River/Conine Creek loop. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed lunch and learned more about the Waterfront Redevelopment Area. The former industrial properties between Moratoc Park and the NC Wildlife Boat Ramp were cleaned up through a Brownfield Grant from EPA. These properties and the surrounding area will be redeveloped for community uses and ecotourism, while preserving environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.

Possible community uses include open space for gatherings, a dog park, River Landing Center, and a boardwalk to connect to the existing boardwalks at Moratoc Park and the boat ramp. Ecotourism opportunities include a campground, kayak rentals, guided fishing tours, bird watching and wildlife tours, rental cabins, and similar uses. Grants and lucrative leases are available for qualified developers. The Skewarkee Trail provides a perfect link to the downtown district. In a short one-mile walk, people can go downtown to shop and dine after a fun day on the river.

Remember to join us for the first Main Street Market on Mon. May 22nd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm! Martin County Ramblers will be playing live music. You can purchase

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Main Street News

Economic Development There are still buildings available downtown in prime locations on Main Street. Renovation grant funds are available for qualifying new businesses. Grant amounts are based on new full time job creation. The Planning Department is available to assist potential businesses with the grant process.

Promotions Come join us for the next Small Business Saturday event on May 6th. Shop at participating downtown businesses, and register to win \$50 in downtown bucks! Last month's winner was Jimmy Silverthorne from Williamston. He shopped at Martin Supply. Your odds of winning are better than the lottery, so get your registration forms in!

Memberships We would like to invite you to join Williamston Downtown Inc. Membership rates are as low as \$25 for individuals and \$50 for businesses. Membership forms can be obtained at www.facebook.com/WilliamstonDowntown, in person at Town Hall, or mailed at your request.

Public Art Williamston Downtown Inc. has been working with a group of citizen volunteers to plan a mural for Barnes Plaza. We are looking for sponsors for this project. Businesses can be recognized on a bronze plaque for as low as \$250. Individuals and non-profits can be recognized for as low as \$100. Call Jamie at Town Hall or email us if you are interested in being a sponsor.

Contact us at williamstondowntown@yahoo.com



On April 23rd, people gathered at Moratoc Park for Roanoke River Partner's Spring Paddle Days event and the public outreach session for the Waterfront Redevelopment Area. Paddlers are pictured above, getting ready to take off!

**Williamston Downtown Inc.
Board Meeting**

**May 9th 7:00 am @
Red Heron Café
118 Harrison Street**

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| Call to order | 7:00 |
| Invocation | 7:01 |
| Minutes of last meeting | 7:05 |
| Financial Report | 7:10 |
| Committee Reports | 7:15 |
| Economic Development | |
| Design Subcommittee | |
| Promotions | |
| Arts Council | 7:25 |
| E.J. Hayes Alumni Association | 7:30 |
| Martin Community College | 7:35 |
| Tourism | 7:40 |
| Woman's Club | 7:45 |
| Friends of the Old Courthouse | 7:50 |
| Discussion | 7:55 |
| Adjourn | 8:00 |

Seen on Main Drag... Carol Shields heading down to the river, Brenda Griffin entering Town Hall, Lou Ann Van Landingham entering the Enterprise, David Gurganus outside Modlin Insurance...

Williamston Downtown, Inc.
Chairperson: Wilbur Edwards
Vice Chair: A. R. Chesson
Secretary: Jean Stevens
Treasurer: John Spilman
Newsletter Editor: Brent Kanipe

Corner Chair continued... local produce, honey, canned goods and plants, and network with local businesses. There will be activities for kids as well. We hope to see you there!

We have been working with consultant Bob Murphrey to develop the "Update and Action Plan for Downtown Williamston", which is based on the public input session that was held on March 23rd. The plan is now complete and can be viewed on the Town of Williamston website or Downtown Williamston Facebook page. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Many people are wondering about the Mitchell's Photography building. We had an engineer inspect the building last month. The remaining building is structurally sound and the façade is able to be rebuilt. We will be moving forward with the originally planned reconstruction.

Jamie

**Remember, "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."
-Casey Kasem**

Join us for the first Main Street Market on Mon. May 22nd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Barnes Plaza. Uptown Greenville's Umbrella Market is pictured to the right. Let's have a great turnout here in Williamston as well!

Upcoming Events

- May 4th**
Chamber of Commerce 2017 Roanoke Derby @ Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Ag. Center
- May 4th @ 7:00 pm**
Open Mic Night @ Martin County Arts Council
- May 6th**
Small Business Saturday @ Downtown Williamston
- May 6th - 7th**
NC East Regional Qualifying 4-H Youth Horse Show @ Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Ag. Center
- May 11th - 14th**
Carolina Classic Reining Horse Derby @ Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Ag. Center
- May 18th**
A One Man Show Featuring Mike Bennett @ Martin County Arts Council
- May 21st**
Alice in Wonderland Tea Party @ Martin County Arts Council (Adults \$15, Children \$5)
- May 22nd @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm**
Main Street Market with live music by Martin County Ramblers @ Barnes Plaza
- May 25th @ 6:30 - 7:30 pm**
Family Building Night @ Martin Memorial Library
- May 26th - 28th**
Memorial Classic Reining Horse Show & Derby @ Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Ag. Center
- June 3rd**
Small Business Saturday @ Downtown Williamston

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



Williamston Downtown, Inc.
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