



GALAX DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Working to Benefit the Community of Galax, Virginia

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Merchants, Professionals, and Community in Partnership

Issue 13

REMINDER: All members received a form to fill out the information they wanted on the GDA website. Those forms were due March 15. If you haven't gotten yours in—please do so immediately.

Mother's & Father's Day Promotions

The GDA, working together with the Galax Gazette, are offering members a great advertising opportunity for these upcoming holidays. Members can purchase a full color ad under the GDA header for just \$18.50! The ad will measure 2X2 and will be designed in full color. This will create an attractive array of gift opportunities for folks to show their parent how much they are appreciated.

The top of the page will suggest that readers shop locally with GDA members for Mother's Day. The ad comes out May 5th, the Monday before Mother's Day (Monday is the Gazette's most read paper). Each member can purchase ONE 2X2 ad for \$18.50 and the Gazette will design the ad and your payment will go directly to them. You just need to sign up with

see Promotions on reverse...

**Next GDA Meeting
Monday, April 7
6:15 pm at Rooftop**

The Future of the GDA

The GDA has many accomplishments to note in the process of becoming a unified business community in the last year. Our successes include:

- Numerous advertising campaigns that offer members greatly reduced costs for promotion.
- The establishment of a functional office and centralization of inventory/records
- A year-round outlet for GDA merchandise sales to raise funds (Rooftop)
- The creation of many mutually beneficial relationships with other organizations
- Several highly regarded events that are appreciated by the community
- The institution of membership benefits, parameters and dues

Our board has been extremely productive and diligent working to create a vital and effective organization designed to strengthen the economic foundation, stimulate growth, and foster success for small and locally-owned businesses. We have achieved our goals through promotional marketing with an emphasis on maintaining a vital, attractive, and diverse commercial district in historic downtown Galax while enhancing the quality of life in our community.

At our next meeting, the GDA will have nominations for officers to the board to continue the progress that we have so successfully accomplished this last year. As discussed in the many general meetings, the election process of this term has changed. Four seats on the board will be up for nomination in our meeting on April 7th. This will allow the board to maintain consistency, direction, and momentum.

- Nominations will be accepted for the President and Secretary positions, and 2 additional board positions (to be detailed at the meeting) for 2 year terms.
- The 4 remaining board members will remain for one more year until the next elections. The duties of those 4 positions will be detailed at the next meeting.
- The current President will transfer to the role of Past President and remain on the Executive Committee.
- Nominations will be opened during the meeting on April 7th and closed at the end of that meeting.

Members who fulfilled the attendance requirement of at least 3 general meetings within the past term can exercise their vote during the election to be held on May 5th. (Attending the election meeting will count as 1 of the 3 required to vote the next year's election.)

At this time, the GDA board welcomes our 2 appointed members, Sharon Ritchie and Bernadette Hodges, who have filled the seats previously held by Tony Truitt and Doug Hines. Tony and Doug continue to be loyal members of the GDA but didn't have the available time to dedicate to the many projects currently being undertaken by the board. They will continue to support efforts to strengthen the organization and deliver the newsletters that communicate the information vital to members and the board appreci-

Final Call for Sunday-Monday Brochures

As detailed in the last newsletter, the GDA is producing a rack card to let visitors in town on Sunday and Monday know what businesses are open, creating a positive impression rather than letting visitors leave frustrated that many shops and activities are closed.

This is a Spring & Summer brochure featuring all members who are open on Sundays & Mondays, a brief description, location info, and hours of operation. If you will be open on Sunday and/or Monday in the spring and summer months, please make sure we get your information. You can also specify which months you will have extended hours.

We would like to have these brochures available for the start of the travel season. Please make sure that you have provided your information in writing by April 8th. You can email galaxdowntown@yahoo.com or drop off written info to Scott at A Place in Time Antiques. There is no cost to members and no reason not to participate if you are open anyway.

Steiff on the Mountain returns to Galax! Festival is planned for October 10 & 11, 2008. Octobear Fest to include kids activities, Steiff Show & Sale, Little Miss & Miss Galax Pageant, Vendors, Entertainment, etc. Volunteers needed. Contact coordinator, Katy Hickam-Davis 233-5387 silnymom2threekids@yahoo.com

Parking Dialogue Continues

The GDA has received concerns from members at several meetings in the past year about the problem of business owner and employee parking in prime spaces along Main Street and Grayson Street.

The problem is not unique to Galax as evident in the hotline and editorials in the Gazette. While it is not uncommon in small municipalities where parking is limited, it is nonetheless detrimental to economic growth of the area and creates a great deal of frustration.

This issue is a **big deal** because each parking space downtown represents \$1500 in revenue each year to downtown businesses—that means professional offices, service providers, shops and restaurants. **\$1500 in revenue to downtown businesses! If you think this doesn't pertain to you—the #1 complaint on the city wide survey sent out with the city water bill revealed that residents can't find parking downtown!**

The GDA is working to address this problem. At the general meeting on April 7th, we will outline our plan of action to improve the situation.

Meet the Candidates

The Galax Downtown Association and the Chamber of Commerce will partner to sponsor an informative discussion with the candidates for Galax City Council, intended to help citizens make informed decisions when voting. As you know, there are 6 candidates running for 3 seats on the City Council, with the election being held May 6, 2008.

Everyone who lives in the city has a vested interest to learn how the candidates view the future of Galax, but certainly those who conduct business here should actively participate. Questions have been submitted from citizens via email to the Galax Gazette and will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from the GDA and the Chamber for the discussion. Candidates will be given the selected questions in advance to research any necessary information and prepare their answers. There will also be a small number of questions that will be answered spontaneously.

The forum will be held on Thursday, April 17 from 6-8 at the Crossroads Institute and be moderated by Brenda Stamey of The Doctor's Inn, who brought the idea to fruition. The current schedule for the event includes a brief opening statement from each candidate followed by the questions. There will be a period after the question and answer period for the candidates to mingle with the audience with light refreshments being offered.

If you have a question that you would like to submit for the candidates' response, email the question to galaxdowntown@yahoo.com. Deadline to register to vote is April 7th, to vote on May 6th.

Promotions continued...

the GDA to take advantage of the opportunity. The same process will be done for Father's Day.

	Sign up with GDA by	Artwork Due	Ad Runs	Cost
Mother's Day, May 12	April 21	Wed. April 30	Mon. May 5	\$18.50
Father's Day, June 15	May 26	Wed. June 4	Mon. June 9	\$18.50

It is a GREAT price for a full color ad and surely, it is worth that amount for the exposure alone. Businesses are encouraged to offer a special price or product to attract shoppers but not too much into your ad or you'll lose the reader's attention.

Each business can only purchase 1 ad for each holiday because of the significant price break. Please contact Scott at A Place in Time at 238-9900 to sign up for placement.



Vietnam Veterans Chapter Dedication Ceremony

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, 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 and served in Korea in the Combat Engineers. After he was discharged, he worked for Galax Mirror Company.

Then the Vietnam War came along and Charles re-enlisted. Morris' squad led the third platoon of Company A of the US Army 173rd Airborne's 503rd Infantry Regiment 2nd Battalion. It was June 29, 1966, a dark morning on a jungle plain 35 miles south east of Saigon and 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 off 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 on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008, at 2:00 PM 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.

