



Newsletter

October, November, December 2011
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Third Annual Batesville Antique and Craft Festival Set for October 21-22

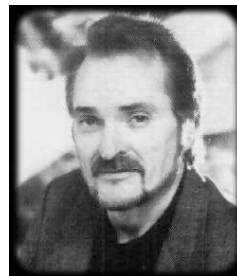
Main Street Batesville will hold the third annual Autumn Antique and Crafts Festival on October 21 and 22. The event will take place in historic downtown Batesville and at other antique and crafts shops in Independence County. Festival hours are Friday, noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Main Street executive director Paula Grimes notes that "the festival grew significantly from the first year to the second, and we expect continued growth this year." Vendor space is available on Main Street, outdoors at the Pocket Park or indoors at the Landers Theater building (332 E. Main) across the street. The restored Landers building is home to the Fellowship Bible Church. Outdoors spaces, 10x10, are \$15 per day. Indoor spaces, also 10x10, are available for \$40 for both days; a two-day commitment is required for indoor space. Space will be allotted on a "first come, first served" basis and must be paid in advance. Contact Paula Grimes, at 870-793-4632 or downtownbatesville@sbcglobal.net.

Batesville and Independence County antique, collectible, and craft stores interested in becoming official participants should also contact Paula Grimes. Please provide your address and a short paragraph about your business for promotional purposes. Participating businesses are asked to be open during festival hours both days. They will be included in festival print materials and all promotion at no cost.

Visitors to Batesville will also want to consider attending the Batesville Area Arts Council's reception to welcome the White River Juried Art Exhibition on Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 at the gallery at 246 E. Main. All of the works included in this outstanding exhibit will be offered for sale. Refreshments will be served.

The Autumn Antique and Crafts Festival is sponsored by Main Street Batesville, First Community Bank, FutureFuel Chemical Company, Fellowship Bible Church, and Ozark Gateway Tourist Council. Additional sponsorship opportunities with significant sponsor benefits and visibility are available; contact Bob Pest at 870-251-1189 or bobpest@wildblue.net.

Narvel Felts Concert



The Narvel Felts concert at the Landers was a sell-out, and raised \$5,000 to benefit Main Street Batesville. Thanks to

all the sponsors and those who attended the show!

FUN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN

The 2011 Fun and Safe Halloween will take place on Monday, October 31, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bring the kids downtown and enjoy seeing all the ghosts and goblins!



“Lighting the Landers” Campaign Launched to Restore Marquee

Since purchasing the severely damaged Landers Theater in 2008, the members of Fellowship Bible Church have contributed thousands of dollars to the restoration of the historic building. Both the interior and the exterior have been meticulously restored. The Landers is not only home for the church, it has also been made available to the community for a variety of events,

ranging from the annual Autumn Antique and Crafts Festival to an Ozark Foothills FilmFest screening of the acclaimed documentary, Defining Beauty: Ms. Wheelchair America. Country music icon Narvel Felts performed there on August 20 and planning is underway for a New Year’s Eve musical celebration. The revival of the Landers has also figured significantly in the resurgence of Main Street, setting the bar for other restoration projects in the downtown historic district. The Landers occupies a unique place in the minds of three generations of Batesville residents who had their first date, stole their first kiss, or experienced an indelible movie moment there. People still recount seeing Gone with the Wind, A Hard Day’s Night, Star Wars, or Forrest Gump at the Landers as if it were yesterday, with vivid details about the popcorn, the crowd, and the building itself. In the words of Jo Blatti, former director of Old Independence Regional Museum, “The Landers is a highly significant building in terms of its physical history and community memory.”

Unfortunately, the marquee and neon sign in front of the building have yet to be restored. The church has been unsuccessful with several grant applications due largely to the troubled economy and the shrinking number of available historic preservation dollars. The marquee is an important symbol of a time when downtown was both the economic and cultural center of the community. Although it is part of what is now the church, it is also a significant icon that helps to preserve precious memories of a simpler time. Restoration of the marquee and neon will not only complete the resurrection of the Landers, it will also create an important be checks payable to Landers Marquee Restoration Fund and mail to Fellowship Bible Church, 276 East Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

***Rodney Block and the Real
Music Lovers Will Perform
at FilmFest Benefit***

Jazz masters Rodney Block and the Real Music Lovers return to Batesville to perform a benefit concert for the Ozark Foothills FilmFest on Sunday, November 6. "Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon" will be held at Elizabeth's Restaurant at 231 East Main Street at 3:00 p.m. The Rodney Block Jazz Project is a quartet comprised of lead trumpet, piano, bass, and drums, with extra vocalist as needed. Block, a classically trained instrumentalist, performs a unique blend of traditional jazz, gospel, hip-hop, Bebop, funk and soul. An Arkansas native, he honed his skills by playing in some of Kansas City's premier venues – Grand Emporium, Plaza III, Blue Room and Liberty Hall. His ensembles have opened for Jonathan Butler, Claude "Fiddler" Williams, and Wynton Marsalis. The group performs regularly at the Afterthought in Little Rock and other venues around the state; they have also toured in Brazil and been featured on *AETN Presents: Front Row*. In addition to Block on trumpet, the group includes Oliver Thomas on bass, Sam Carroll on piano, and Michael Chandler on drums. Tickets for the benefit event are \$25 and are available by calling 870-251-1189. Light refreshments and beverages are included.

Ozark Foothills FilmFest celebrates its 11th anniversary this spring; the festival

will take place March 28 to April 1 at several venues around town, including UACCB, the Landers Theater building, Old Independence Regional Museum, and Lyon College. Arkansas Times magazine has labeled the festival "the best small town film festival in the country."

***White River Juried Exhibition at
Arts Council Gallery on 2nd
Friday***

The Batesville Area Arts Council is hosting the First Annual White River Juried Exhibition. This regional exhibition is open to artists from Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Eighty-eight entries were submitted and thirty-three were accepted including photography, watercolor, oil, mixed media, acrylic, graphite, colored pencil, pen and ink, bronze, and collages. Among the Arkansas artists whose work will be featured include Alan Candler of Batesville, Allison Cantrell of Sidney, Patricia Corder of Smithville, Aline McCracken of Concord, Sheila Parsons of Conway, Susan Gibson of Mena, Virginia Haines of Mountain Home, and Dixie Wilson of Salem. Some of the artists will be present to discuss their work. The ambitious new exhibition was judged by Melissa Gill, Professor of Art at Hendrix College in Conway. The Batesville Area Arts Council Gallery is located at 246 E. Main. The gallery remains open until 8:00 p.m. on 2nd Fridays. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit will remain on display until October 28. A public reception is also scheduled for October 21 from 6:00 to

8:00 p.m. to coincide with the Annual Autumn Antique and Crafts Festival.

Local musical icon Danny Dozier and special guests will perform at the increasingly popular Simply Southern Playhouse Music Theater at 201 E. Main Street. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited so early arrival is recommended. Music begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5, \$2 for children 12 and under.

Many downtown businesses will also remain open until 8:00 p.m. or later, including Elizabeth's Restaurant and the Batesville Gaming Center. 2nd Friday Downtown is a project of Main Street Batesville, with the cooperation and support of the downtown businesses.

Informational Meeting

Please join the Arkansas State Chamber as they partner with Newport and Batesville Area Chambers of Commerce for a "Door-to-Door" lunch meeting. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 4th. Lunch begins at 11:30. The presentation begins at noon and concludes by 1:00. It will be held at ASU Newport inside the Student/Community Center, Merchants & Planters Room.

This presentation is designed as a recap of the key legislative accomplishments from the 2011 Session, the highway program, education, the severance tax issue, other tax issues, and ways to make Arkansas's business climate more competitive.

Please make your reservation by calling Deb Mathis at 501-210-4212 or e-mail at dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com

Message from Ozark Gateway:

We are currently working on the 2012 issue of the Ozark Gateway Tourism Guide. We will again be printing more than 100,000 copies of the magazine; we will make an ample quantity available to Paula so that you can always have some on hands for visitors. The guide is also available at all 14 of the state visitor centers, hotels, restaurants, and shops across our eight-county region. Our executive director Cathy Drew does a great job getting the guides out and keeping the racks full. Advertising space is available in the Independence County section. Current and past advertisers will tell you that our ads are the best bargain in the region since the magazine is available and used for an entire year. Cathy will help you design your ad if you need help. We also send out a weekly e-newsletter with information about events and activities in the region and our website, www.ozarkgateway.org, is extremely popular. We run print ads in Memphis, Jonesboro, and other targeted communities; radio spots across the region; and television spots in a number of communities, including Mountain Home. I have also been writing regular newspaper and magazine articles about the restaurants, art galleries, state parks, museums, and businesses in the area. For a rate sheet with details about advertising, email Cathy Drew (crdrew@sbcglobal.net). We are both available to discuss your print ad and other marketing options, like our website ads. You must be a member to advertise. Memberships are only \$50 per year. Since I became president of Ozark Gateway two years ago we have seen considerable growth in the number of visitors to the region and the amount of money they spend. As most of you know, I am passionately committed to continuing the revival of our historic downtown. I strongly believe that becoming a member of Ozark Gateway and advertising in the visitors guide is a great way to keep the momentum going.

Thanks for your time. We need to tell everyone we can that our downtown is vibrant, varied, and open for business.

MUSIC ON MAIN NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

Plans are underway for an alcohol-free New Years Eve Celebration to be held on Main Street. Sponsored by First Community Bank, the event will kick off at 5:30 p.m. at Elizabeth's Restaurant with entertainment provided by David Grimes. The celebration continues with Shannon Wurst from Fayetteville entertaining at Simply Southern Music Playhouse. The grand finale will take place at the Fellowship Bible Church, formerly the Landers Theater. Michael Eubanks will perform there from 9 p.m.-midnight. Join us as we bring in 2012 with Music on Main.

Citizens for Downtown Batesville Executive Summary

Mission:

To foster revitalization, rehabilitation, beautification and economic vitality in Batesville's historic downtown business district.

Board Members

Paula Grimes – Main Street Batesville
Crystal Johnson – Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce
Rick Reed – Rick Reed Company
Nelson Barnett – Downtown Historic Business District Commission
Greg Shaver – Citizens Bank
Richard Black – Citizens Bank / Downtown property owner
Robb Roberts – Citizens Bank
Herb Lawrence – Arkansas Small Business And Technology Center (non-voting)

Grant Program

Citizens Bank has pledged \$15,000 for the Citizens for Downtown Batesville Initiative. Grant applications to be reviewed and approved by the governing board. Considerations include:

- Must be within the geographic area defined by Main Street Batesville
- Grants to be 3-1 matching grants
- Grants cannot be coupled with other grants. 25% cash injection is required.
- Reserved for exterior aesthetic improvements to primary facade
- \$1,500 limit per grant
- Approval of Downtown Historic Business District Commission
- Consultation of Main Street Arkansas

Loan Requirements

Citizens Bank has pledged a pool of \$1,000,000 to fund low-interest rate loans for the initiative. Considerations include:

- Within the geographic area defined by Main Street Batesville
- Approved under proper authority of Citizens Bank's loan policy
- Consultation of Main Street Arkansas
- Approval of Downtown Historic Business District Commission
- Structural, aesthetic or renovation in purpose
- Landlord's waiver for leasehold improvements
- SBA guaranteed when possible and prudent
- For Tax Credit Qualified Loans:
 1. Building must be on National Historic Register
 2. Pre-approval of renovation must be approved by Department of Interior
 3. Federal tax credits = 20% of expenditures.

- a. Must be used in 20 years
 - b. May be completed in phases
- 4. State tax credits – 25% of expenditures
 - a. transferable
 - b. Must be used in five years
- 5. Cumulative Federal and State tax credits = 45% of cost of improvements

Main Street Batesville

Board Members

Lisa Caplinger, President
 Brenda Brady, Vice-President
 Lucinda Elms, Secretary- Treasurer
 Chris Black
 Curt Thompson
 Butch Kelley
 Herb Lawrence
 Sharon Baker

Executive Director

Paula Grimes 870-613-1713

Schedule of Events:

Oct. 7, 5:00 p.m.
 Second Friday Events

Oct. 21
 Autumn Antiques and Crafts Festival
 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 22
 Autumn Antiques and Crafts Festival
 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 31, 5:00 p.m.
 Fun and Safe Halloween

Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m.
 Christmas Lighting and Parade

December 31, 5:30 p.m.
 New Years Celebration
 Music on Main



The Winter Gala will be held in January 2012. Watch our facebook page for updates!



Merchants and Property Owners,

Please remember that we offer interior and exterior design services, as well as small business consultation AT NO CHARGE to Main Street members Call 870-613-1713 for information.