

“FUN IS GOOD”

Let's begin by agreeing on the simple truth of those words by Theodore S. Geisel (Dr. Seuss). FUN IS GOOD! It's as if the Maitland Area Chamber of Commerce used those words as a guideline for last weekend's Spring Arts Festival. Because if there is one thing the Festival provided, it was FUN. A whole weekend of community based, family friendly, pet friendly fun in the park.

Lake Lily shined again as the backdrop for the Spring Arts Festival. The Chamber used all of its best energies to assemble the finest show it has ever produced. The Friday night hours added a fun new dimension to the show which pleased the exhibitors and the public alike. Parking was a breeze, and a bargain. And a boon to the local scout troops who handled the duties beautifully, thank you very much! And the food was exceptional this year, as four local community partners provided delicious high quality food in a postcard perfect setting.

Thanks to SoNapa Grille, Ran Getsu, Sam Snead's, and Antonio's for participating with the Chamber on a giant leap of progress for Festival food. And let's not leave out PAM and the Maitland Men's Club for once again demonstrating their unwavering commitment to local events. The Chamber, PAM, and the Men's Club are solid partners supporting local businesses. The Maitland Library was involved, as they held a book fair on their lawn adjacent to the Festival entrance. Maitland's own Enzian Theater was busy kicking off its annual Film Festival. The town was jumping. The entire weekend was once more an example of the power of positive collaboration.

Special thanks goes out to the "Take 7" girls, a cappella group from Winter Park High School. They were fabulous, and we all wish them Good Luck on their upcoming New York City competition! Maitland's newest nightclub, JazzTastings, was a sponsor of smooth jazz, and their sensational weekend band, 2EEZ featuring AndrewLuv, was very warmly received on Friday night.

The success of the Festival is the result of a lot of hard work by a core group of dedicated Chamber members, under the leadership of the Chamber's new Executive Director, Maria Simmons, as much as it is a tribute to the several local and national corporate sponsors whose financial contributions made it all possible. But let's get back to FUN.

The weather was delightful, the artists and vendors were upbeat and prosperous. The crowd was local. Neighbors strolled together around the beautiful lake, which the City's tireless Leisure Services and Public Works Departments maintain so professionally. Lake Lily is Maitland's iconic community gathering area, and the Festival proved a delightful way to enjoy it.

At one point a trio of well known radio personalities who have perhaps 100 years of local professional experience between them, sat contentedly in the shade and reflected on the advantages of a Festival like the Spring Arts Festival. It's accessible, and one felt comfortable lounging along the breezy shoreline visiting with neighbors. So many shows have become so crowded and cramped one can barely slow down to chat. The Chamber show distinguished itself otherwise. It was effortless. Local artists' wares were comfortably within reach. Local musicians were pleasingly within earshot. And the smells of great food from familiar vendors were constantly enticing one's senses. It was FUN. And Fun is Good. So we'll do it again. Thanks Chamber! See you next year...

The Chamber thanks the following sponsors: Orlando Sentinel; WUCF Radio; City of Maitland; Progress Energy; The "Q"; Bailey, Zobel, Pilcher; Sheraton Orlando North; Florida Hospital Altamonte; Orlando Living Centers; Days In-Fern Perk; Costco; Maitland Stage Band; Winter Park/Maitland Observer; Lifestyle Magazine; Mercedes Benz of Maitland; JazzTastings; Arts & History Museums; Courtyard By Marriott; Gulf States Credit Union; M&I A part of BMO Financial Group; Regions Bank; Trustco Bank; Seacoast Bank; Hunter Vision; Lowe's; Orlando Direct Buy; Roach Family Chiropractic; Sultana Law P.A.; J&J Creations; Baterby's Art Auction Gallery; and Maitland Public Library.

By Councilman Phil Bonus

City Council Meeting of April 23, 2012

City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23rd in the Council Chambers, 1776 Independence Lane. Below are items that will be addressed at that meeting.

Inauguration Ceremony

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors
3. Invocation – Pastor Jeff Jakes, Orangewood Presbyterian Church
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Oath of Office – Mayor Howard Schieferdecker
6. Recess

Reconvene Council Meeting

Special Presentations:

- Proclamation – Arbor Day
- Proclamation – North American Occupational Safety and Health Week
- Downtown Development Partners
 - Bill Finfrock, Finfrock Design, Inc.
 - Sean Law – American Reality Development, LLC

Public Hearings:

- Ordinance – Creating the Downtown Maitland Zoning District
- Ordinance – Rezone Properties within the Downtown Maitland Zoning District

Please check our web page at www.itsmymaitland.com for the complete agenda and approved meeting minutes.