

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
June 27, 2016
6:30 pm

Executive Director's Report

1. May 23-25 – **National Main Street Conference (Milwaukee, WI)**. Pam Medley and Ben Chandler represented Chattahoochee Main Street at the annual national conference held in Milwaukee, WI.
2. May 26 – **Gadsden County BOCC Budget Workshop**. The first in a series of County budget workshops. Funding for non-profit organizations was one of the primary items for discussion. CMS submitted an application to the County for 2016-17 funding to supplement and add to the number of projects for the Building Enhancement Façade Grant Program. The amount requested was **\$5,000.00**.

The County received significantly more requests from non-profit organizations this year than they have in years past. For 2016-17, the current recommendation is to fund 2015-16 recipients at the same level they received last year. The next budget workshop will be held on July 14.

3. May 27 – **CSS Chattahoochee Commemoration**. A brief ceremony was held to honor the men who perished in the tragedy of the CSS Chattahoochee. This year marked the 153rd anniversary of the tragedy which took place on the Apalachicola River near Blountstown on May 27, 1863. Historian and author, Dale Cox, was on hand to provide a historical account of the event. Special thanks go to Mrs. Karen Howell who created and provided the new floral arrangement for placement at the marker.
4. June 1 – **VisitFlorida Grant Award**. We received a letter from VisitFlorida with notification that CMS has been awarded a Cultural, Heritage, Rural and Nature Tourism Education Grant. The grant will be used for the development of a **Historic Chattahoochee Educational Video & Guided Walking Tour**. The purpose of this project is to develop a digital/video-based product detailing the rich Florida history around the City of Chattahoochee and its River Landing area along the Apalachicola River. The subject matter depicted will include a River Landing walking history tour around the Chattahoochee Landing Mound complex that dates to the Ft. Walton Period (900-1500 AD), the Nichols' Outpost (a British outpost built during the War of 1812), the Scott Massacre of 1817 (the event which led to Florida becoming a US Territory in 1821), and the tragedy of the Confederate warship CSS Chattahoochee. The end result of the project will be a digital video production suitable for use across a variety of platforms to promote historical tourism in rural Gadsden County. This is a matching grant valued at **\$2,000.00**.

CMS was also notified that we were not selected for the Small Business Grant that was to be used for the next Galvanizing Gadsden event.

5. **June 3 – New River Landing Discovery.** Dale Cox has located the remains of what appears to be a British field bake oven that was a part of the Nicolls’ Outpost at the River Landing. It is one of only six ever found in the United States. The discovery resulted from an archaeological project he was working on downriver at Fort Gadsden. As a part of that project three small mounds were discovered that were determined to be field ovens used by British troops to make bread.

Based on this find, it led to an investigation to see if any were around Nicolls’ Outpost. An identical feature was found in an area just east of the stage at the River Landing. This feature is very rare and would be of national historic significance and would help greatly with our National Historic District application.

6. **June 14 – GCDC Board Meeting.** Beth Kirkland, consultant to the GCDC, gave a presentation on the results of the Strategic Sites Inventory study that was funded by Duke Energy through Enterprise Florida. Of the 20 potential sites identified in Gadsden County for industrial/commercial development, 6 sites have been identified for strategic promotion: All of the sites are near the I-10 corridor with three near the Gretna/Greensboro interchange and three near the Quincy interchange at Pat Thomas Parkway. Some have close proximity to rail. They range in size from approximately 100-620 acres.
7. **June 23 – Joint BOCC/City Council Workshop.** A landmark joint workshop held at the Arsenal to discuss ways the City and County can support each other’s efforts.

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS/PROJECTS

8. **June 28 – Lion’s Club Presentation.** Ben Chandler will be providing a Main Street update to the joint meeting of the Chattahoochee and Quincy Lion’s Club organizations.
9. **June 28 – Small Business Workshop.** Congresswoman Gwen Graham will be presenting a Small Business Administration “Small Business Workshop” from 5-7pm at the UF IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center. It will be an opportunity to learn about running and starting a successful small business in North Florida from the SBA and their resource partners. Items that will be covered include:
 - Gaining a basic understanding of the key steps to getting a business off the ground or to the next level.
 - Learning about contracting opportunities, various financing options, and what banks look for when lending.
 - Meeting local representatives available to assist in starting and growing a small business.
10. **June 29 – Chamber of Commerce “Go Gadsden.”** Senator Bill Montford will be the guest speaker to provide a legislative update.
11. **June 30 – WTXL TV Interview.** Ben Chandler will be on the early morning show to promote the Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration.

12. June 30 – **WCTV TV Interview**. Ben Chandler will be joined by either Darrel Gibson or Bill Austin of Rutabaga Café on the cooking segment of WCTV’s Midday Show. They will be showing a preview of what they plan to be serving up at the Old Fashioned 4th of July. It will be an opportunity to promote the event and showcase a local business.
13. July 4 – **Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration**. Chattahoochee Main Street will be hosting the annual Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration on the banks of the Apalachicola River at the River Landing. The event begins at 11AM Eastern and ends with a spectacular fireworks display at dark. There will be food, fun, arts & crafts, games, contests and FREE watermelon at the River Landing with live music all day, featuring the local area talents of the Wailin’ Wolves, Ira Daniels & GHEE Redemption, The Drummond Family Band, The Acoustic Messengers Trio, The Singing Regals and more. Admission will be \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per person to walk-in.
14. July 12 – **Signature Event Planning**. CMS is contracting with Doris Tillman (nationally respected and longstanding Main Street Director for Ft. Pierce and Florida Main Street consultant), to establish an executable plan to initiate a signature event to be the primary fundraiser for Chattahoochee Main Street.
15. July 14 – **Gadsden County Budget Workshop**. This is the second in a series of county budget workshops. It is anticipated that non-profit organization funding requests will be on the agenda for further discussion.
16. August 8-10 – **Florida Main Street Annual Conference**. This year’s FMS annual conference will be held in Deland.
17. August 9 – **Secretary of State Florida Main Street Awards Banquet**. It has been unofficially announced that Chattahoochee Elementary School will receive the Secretary of State’s award for *Outstanding Florida Main Street Sign/Display Project* for the Chattahoochee Elementary School Banner Program. Awards will be presented by Secretary of State, Ken Detzner, at the annual Florida Main Street Conference in Deland. A press release will be issued after the awards are officially presented.
18. August 16 – **Gadsden County Budget Workshop**. The BOCC will host the third budget workshop prior to the budget hearings to be held in September.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

19. **CMS Façade Grant Program**. Based on technical assistance guidance received from Florida Main Street, Chattahoochee Main Street is developing an application process to use 2015/2016 county funding, along with our matching funds, to initiate a new Building Façade Enhancement Matching Grant Program. Up to three (3) projects are planned to be initiated (approximately \$2,500.00 for each project). The awarding of these projects to property owners along US 90 in the Main Street Local Program Area would be on a matching dollar for dollar basis. Additional funding will be used from the Chattahoochee Main Street Downtown Beautification Fund.

This application and criteria are being developed. This process must be carefully crafted as the City’s land development code does not have specific design standards to conform to.

20. **US 90 Historic Corridor Plan.** Following the two (2) workshops held by the County, the US 90 Historic Corridor Plan has been drafted. The purpose of the project has been to develop a roadmap for improving tourism and economic development along US 90 in Gadsden County, and the region, as we work in concert with Jackson, Washington, Walton and Holmes Counties. The County's Planning Department can be contacted for further information.

21. **DEO Technical Assistance Grant Application.** CMS applied for a Community Technical Assistance Grant through the Department of Economic Opportunity. This is the same grant category that CMS applied for and received in 2014/15 to facilitate the community visioning process. This year's scope will be for developing the Historic Main Street Design Standards and support the work of the CMS Design Committee. We anticipate grant awards to be announced by August.