

Open Work Session
May 16, 2017
Wicomico County's 150thth Anniversary Celebration

Mr. Steve Miller, Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism came to the podium. Mr. Miller said, as Council knows, Wicomico County is turning 150 this year, and his department along with the Executive's Office has been working on some public celebrations to commemorate the 150th-year Anniversary. He said he is here to give Council highlights of what they have planned, and he asks Council to be part of that and participate. Mr. Miller presented a slide presentation. He said the bulk of their activities are going to take place over two weekends. The first of which will take place at the Wicomico County Fair, the weekend of August 18th through 20th. He said on Friday night of the County Fair, the Opening Ceremony, the County is sponsoring a Jimmy Charles Concert. He is a country act out of Nashville, and he has roots on the Eastern Shore. He said they are pleased to have Jimmy Charles as part of the kickoff that weekend. He said that is a free concert to the public. He said on Saturday, during the peak hours of the Fair, at 1:50 p.m. to celebrate the 150th, they are doing a Parade of Towns. They are going to all of the towns and municipality meetings and invited them to participate to celebrate their own history in the parade through the County Fair. He said they will also have a historic village set up at the Fair with displays talking about life in Wicomico County over the last 150 years. He said that is the first major weekend they have planned.

Mr. Miller continued, he said the second weekend is the third weekend in September. He said that is in conjunction with a third Friday in Downtown Salisbury. He said several events that will be happening there, one of the highlights will be the unveiling of the improvements at the Courthouse. He said the Greater Salisbury Committee, which is turning 50 this year, while the County is turning 150; one of their gifts to the County will be to fund an up lighting of the Courthouse. He said that will be one of the highlights of that night on Friday night, September 15th, the third Friday, in Salisbury. He said that evening they will also be doing some historical tours downtown and guided history tours. He said the third Friday that weekend happens to be themed about the past and the future. There will be people dressed up, and all sorts of different activities happening there. He said the following night, Greater Salisbury is sponsoring a 150th year Gala, which will be held at Salisbury University. The proceeds of that event are going to help fund the up lighting. He said those are the two major weekends that they are planning publicly to get people involved.

Mr. Miller said there are a couple of spinoff events. This past weekend, the Westside Historical Society, they had an annual Heritage Festival. Unfortunately, they had poor weather Saturday so they had to bring it inside, but they had some 150th displays about what life was like 150 years ago. He said the Shorebirds on August 24th, they are going to do a \$1.50 night for the upper level seats to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. He said that will be a neat opportunity for folks to come out.

Mr. Miller said, one of his personal favorites, when they went to all the different town and municipality meetings, one of the things that folks consistently brought up was this concept of the 100 Celebration 50 years ago, which was called "Brothers of the Brush." This was a facial hair growing contest. What they would like to do is to bring that event back. They are going to have their own version of the Brothers of the Brush. Mr. Miller showed some pictures from 50 years ago of the contest winners. He showed another picture of the County Council President at the time, Mr. Richard Wooten, Mr. Henry Parker is also in the picture, and they have those folks to participate but not grow facial hair. He said he was hoping to get some elected officials involved in this event; he is hoping for seven. Mr. Miller said in this case they did a proclamation urging citizens to participate, and if any of Council would want to participate, they would love to have them be part of that. Mr. Miller said the idea is to just engage people and to have some fun and to bring awareness to the 150th Anniversary to whatever extent they would like to participate. He said they are going to kick-off that contest on June 3rd. It is at the Downtown Salisbury Festival at 7:00 p.m. on the main stage. They have a barber and the whole thing is set up.

Mr. Miller said they have window decals that they are giving out for free in the community to businesses and any folks that want to put on their vehicles. He said he has given some to Mrs. Hurley, and also a postcard which has the 150th logo and on the back are the events that he just highlighted. Mr. Miller said those are the things they have planned. They are excited and he thinks it is going to be a lot of fun.


Mr. Matt Holloway asked, on June 3rd, does everybody start growing their beards from scratch. Mr. Miller said there were six categories, one of which is the fastest growing beard. The fastest growing on June 3rd, those folks will start clean. They will have to verify, and on, September 15th, the third Friday, they will have official judges. He said those folks will have three months for fastest growing. For those who do not want to start clean, they have five other categories. One is the worst beard for folks who struggle to grow facial hair. They don't want to be exclusive to anybody, they have included those folks, so the worst your beard, the better. He said everyone can participate.

Mr. Kilmer said he was down at Mardela Springs over the weekend. He said he noticed some other towns have been planning events throughout the year, as Mardela has something on July 4th. He said he was talking to some folks there, and they asked if the County wanted to do anything at those events. He said he knows Mardela Springs talked about this specifically, anything from the County, they can participate in their July 4th event. They would be more than happy to continue to work with the County to promote this and do things like that. Mr. Miller said that would be fantastic. He said these two weekends are the ones they are planning, but there are other spinoff events which as many times they can celebrate this, that would be fantastic. He said he knows SWAC is turning 50 this year. They have talked about doing something that would also promote the 150th Anniversary. They are willing to work with anybody to celebrate this event. Mr. Cannon told Mr. Miller that he did a great job of sponsorships. He said maybe if through the assistance with the Chamber, there could be a lot of businesses that may want to sponsor parts or any of these events. It is great recognition for them. It is good branding for any local companies.

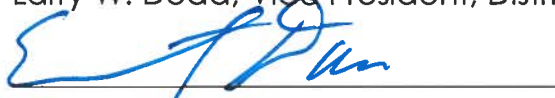
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John F. Cannon, President



Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3




Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2

John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Matt Holloway, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator