



VILLAGE CHAT - Irvington - May 22, 2024
10:00am Zoom

In attendance:

Larry Schopfer (Village Administrator); Arlene Burgos (Village Trustee and Liaison to: Department of Public Works, Water Department, Police Department, GPTF and the Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce/Tourism/"Downtown" Improvement); Danielle Centofanti-Davidson (Chamber President / Main St Business Strategies); Dina Fleischman (Chamber Vice President / Oilladi); Stacy Ciaravella (Chamber Representative to Irvington / Community Living Media); Katherine Medina (Aesthetics by KM)

Meeting Notes:

- Stacy noted we had thirteen people register for today's chat but not everyone attended and suggested more outreach needs to be done to increase attendance
- Larry announced the next major event in Irvington will be the Summer Festival on June 2nd at which time the new Bulldog art installation will be unveiled
- Arlene continued with more details about the event which is an initiative to raise interest in the Irvington arts "scene" and increase foot traffic. Pedestals are going up today and the installation itself will happen on June 1st. At this time, the village is working on recruiting businesses to take part in the festival (which will be free to those participating). Emails have been sent, the Chamber is promoting the event on its community calendar and newsletters.
- June 8th is the date for a Pride Celebration taking place in front of the Main Street School
- A Juneteenth Celebration will be held June 22nd from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. This year there will be special focus on celebrating the legacy of the entrepreneur, activist and philanthropist Madam C.J. Walker (a resident of Irvington who died in 1919). Her home will be open to the public for the first time and will allow for historical walk-throughs on the day of the celebration. Her granddaughter, A'Lelia Bundles will be keynote speaker.
- Danielle assured the group that the Chamber will be promoting the village's events on our community calendar and newsletters. She also asked if the Chamber could receive a list of available spaces in the village that we can add to our website. The Chamber would like to do the same for all the villages so that any of our members considering opening a store will be informed.
- Danielle summarized upcoming Chamber events:
 - Abbott House online auction to take place in June. All are welcome to contribute items for auction
 - The Chamber Classroom Series continues with the next installment being June 7th

- The next general membership meeting will be held at Divino's in Hastings on Hudson on June 12th
 - The second annual Golf Open will be September 16th
 - The Chamber will take the customary hiatus from meetings and village chats in July and August and resume in September
 - An Irvington Village Chat will be scheduled for October
 - Also gave a brief summary of the Taste Local event which took place in Irvington Dobbs Ferry and Hastings on Hudson last Saturday, May 18th
 - Don Carvajal Cafe ribbon cutting was also May 18th, at their store location on Main Street. The ribbon cutting was celebrated with a large community gathering, delicious food, coffee and music in the courtyard.
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- Katherine inquired about village efforts to boost foot traffic on N. Astor. Larry said the village has successfully cleaned up the area and is planning to make improvements to the sidewalks. Arlene said the Bulldog installation will include N. Astor and over the train tracks onto Bridge Street. Maps will be distributed around the village and signage will also go up to help with awareness for the event.
 - Katherine also pointed out that the lighting on N. Astor is poor and street lights would do much to help the businesses there. Larry made a note and said he would address the issue