

## **Bayview Daze 2020 Announcement**

This is an announcement by the Bayview Chamber of Commerce board to address the issues and concerns of our community regarding our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration we now fondly refer to as Bayview Daze. What started out around 38 years ago as a street party in front of the Mercantile is now our community's largest event of the year. While it is a time we all enjoy and share with our family and friends, it is also a major source of revenue for our local small businesses.

As the organization responsible for Bayview Daze (the parade, floatilla, fireworks display, and fundraising events), we've been put in the unique position with this year's Corona virus pandemic to decide whether or not to have the event. The Chamber of Commerce board takes this decision very seriously. We have spent the last couple weeks reaching out to other local Chambers, the Panhandle Health District, our County Sheriff, surrounding city officials, our contracted Pyrotechnics company, and several Chamber business and individual members for their input. We also take into account that our community is not the same as others. We have a higher percentage of retirees and elderly residents with compromised immune systems. It is worth noting that a good number of volunteers for the event are of the older generation and prefer not to compromise their health if given the option.

Whatever the situation may be come July, the fact remains that the Chamber has not been able to hold its last two monthly meetings and, at this time, we have cancelled our fund raising pancake breakfasts until further notice. The parade is also an important source of donations so if we have the fireworks show without the parade, the feasibility of next year's event is that much more unlikely.

The Bayview Chamber of Commerce's purpose, as stated in our bylaws, is to promote our quality of life with positive and responsible community development, activities, and facilities which enhance the commercial and recreational interests of the Bayview Community while assuring regional cohesiveness. Our mission statement further states that we will strive to do all these things without compromising our natural resources. Of course, our most valued natural resource is every individual member of our beloved community.

Therefore, it is with deep regret that we are announcing the cancellation of Bayview Daze 2020. We are currently working on some great new ideas that would help supplement the losses felt by our local businesses. We will also be working on an even greater event in 2021. We had a number of ideas that we were working on that would have made this year's event very special and we will continue to work on those ideas to be implemented this following year. We encourage you all to stay safe and stay positive. We are stronger united and are a happier community when we put aside our differences and focus on what makes us better together.

Thank you so much for the part you play in support of our community and we look forward to the days to come when we look back at this crazy time in history. We anticipate a stronger bond between us all and good memories that last more than a lifetime. See you soon.

Sincerely,

*Will Stafford* - President

*Kevin Huff* - Vice President

*Sue Damon* - Treasurer

*Kea Fisher* - Secretary

*Jamie Berube* - Member At Large