

The Phillips Area Vitalizer

- Phillips - 1812-2012 -

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A Business Association for Phillips?

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For some time now, members of the Phillips Revitalization Committee have been fielding suggestions about how to stimulate a vigorous business climate in Phillips and attract new businesses to the area.

Among those suggestions has been the formation of an area business association. To that end, the Revitalization Committee is inviting all businesses in Phillips and the surrounding area to meet and discuss how best to proceed in that direction. From the beginning, the committee's mandate has included economic development, says Steering Committee member Margaret Cosenza, and for businesses to get together and talk about how to do that "seems to be the logical next step."

In August the Revitalization Committee met with the Phillips Chamber of Commerce to seek advice on how best to proceed, and the Chamber members gave their complete blessing to formation of an entirely new group. The Chamber indicated that it is content to continue in its role as planners for Old Home Days (as well as the truck pull and the town business directory) and allow new energy to be focused in a new organization.

What kind of an organization? "That's entirely up to the business owners," says Committee Chair Pam Matthews. "We have some ideas, but it's not about our committee, it's about the town. But, clearly, strengthening existing businesses and attracting new enterprises, more visitors, and new jobs, to Phillips should be on the agenda."

A meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Wednesday, February 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the town office. Those who might attend are storefront businesses, service providers, contractors, realtors, farmers, crafters and artisans, home-based businesses, civic and service organizations, lodging providers, banking and insurance interests, and anyone else interested in helping the economy of Phillips grow.

A Page in the Country's History

Shortly after publishing last issue's notice about the Phillips Bicentennial we were directed to some interesting information about the Massachusetts Governor who signed the town's incorporation papers on February 25, 1812.

He was Elbridge Thomas Gerry (1744-1814), one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. He was one of three men who refused to sign the United States Constitution because it did not then include a Bill of Rights, but he is known best for being the namesake of gerrymandering, a process by which electoral districts are drawn with the aim of aiding the party in power.

Phillips, Avon, Madrid Photo Book Planned

Arcadia Press, a company devoted to publishing books of historical photos and accompanying captions in its "Images of America" series, has expressed interest in a book about Phillips, Avon and Madrid. To date, tentative approval has been given to Pam Matthews to assemble photos and write text about the area and its history. Arcadia's publication target date is early August, just preceding Phillips Old Home Days, this year set for August 12 through 19.

Pam is working with members of local historical societies as well as several area residents to assemble the 200 or so photos and the information about them that the book will include. She also has put out a call for help from anyone in the area who has unique, interesting, or historical photos. "I'm working on a very tight deadline," Pam says, "and need people to let me know very soon, like in the next week or two, if they have photos that might be used in the book."

Anyone interesting in helping out may e-mail Pam at Pam15river@gmail.com or call 639-2630.

News Briefs & Updates . . .

A Sale of Donated Items will be held at the Phillips Library on Saturday, February 4, from noon to 2 p.m. Jewelry and picture frames will be sold in the Library and small tools in the Annex. Winona says tickets will be on sale for the library's March Penny Sale Auction, too.

A Chinese New Year Celebration will be held Monday evening, January 23 with a parade beginning at the Phillips Library at 6 p.m. and ending at the Phillips Area Community Center. The celebration in this "Year of the Dragon" will involve an animated dragon, the release of Chinese floating paper lanterns, ice skating, a bonfire and hot drinks at the Community Center.

Local Cell Phone Service will be discussed by a representative from Verizon at the Phillips Town Office on Thursday, January 26, beginning at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this meeting to explore the possibilities of bringing cell phone coverage to the area. The Verizon representative was invited by the Revitalization Committee.

A Benefit Auction for Rick Pinkham will be held at the Avon Town Hall on Saturday, February 18, from 4 to 6 p.m., with a DJ playing from 7 to 11 p.m. Rick was diagnosed with kidney cancer and this benefit will help him during treatments through a difficult period.

Meetings and Event Schedule . . .

Jan 26 - Meeting with Verizon, Thursday, 6 p.m., Town Office

Feb 2 - Phillips Area Community Center Meeting, Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Phillips School

Feb 10 - High Peaks Alliance Public Meeting, Friday, 6 p.m., Forster Building, Strong.

Feb 14 - Phillips Area Circle for The Arts, Tuesday, 7 p.m., Morning Bridge Center

To submit an event or get The Vitalizer by e-mail, write dickm4242@aol.com