



CHEROKEE HEIGHTS Arts Festival

THE BIGGEST LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AMANDA MORRIS



WHEN OCTOBER TURNS THE CORNER INTO NOVEMBER, *the upcoming holidays are on most everyone's minds. Thoughts of getting together with family and neighbors, the perfect gift to give, and festivities and parties reign.*

But, in Marietta, the thoughts of those in one small neighborhood block are focused on their very own arts festival. The Cherokee Heights Arts Festival packs a lot into the quaint streets of Freyer and Etowah Drives, with more than 40 vendors participating in the festival this year on Nov. 9. Music fills the air with two bands, one on each end of Etowah, playing throughout the day. Tents and tables along the sides of the street include jewelry, pottery, metalwork and much more.

This year marks the tenth year of the arts festival. What started as a private art show that traveled from house to house became a public event and was brought out to the streets for the 175th birthday of Marietta in 2009. "Mayor Bill Dunaway started up a citizens committee to help decide how to celebrate the 175th birthday of the city," said Jim Morris, who was part of





Top Left: *There's always a lot to see and do at the Cherokee Heights Arts Festival.*

Top Right: *Audrey Hepburn Metalwork by Jim and Jo-Evelyn Morris.*

Bottom Left: *Collaboration between Tisch Jewelry Werks and Coppe and Torch.*

Bottom Right: *Musicians Emerson Drummers keep the rhythm of the day alive.*





Photo by Mary Miller

THE MARIETTA PILGRIMAGE

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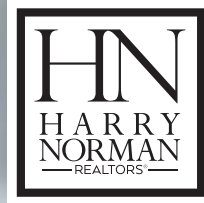
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Before being named Managing Broker, Jeff DeJarnett served as a sales associate with HARRY NORMAN, REALTORS® for more than 14 years where he specialized in residential, land, and equestrian properties. He has helped clients buy and sell properties in Cobb, Fulton, Bartow and Paulding counties. A native of Marietta, Jeff attended Marietta High School before earning a degree in Music Education at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. He immediately returned to Marietta where, for ten years, he taught instrumental music with both Cobb and Marietta City Schools. Jeff and his family spent the next 11 years living in the suburbs of Paris, France where he helped organize various musical events for local protestant and catholic churches. After returning to the U.S., Jeff obtained his Real Estate license and joined the Cobb Marietta office of Harry Norman in 2005. He is a member of the National board of REALTORS® and the Cobb Association of REALTORS®. Jeff and his wife Kibbie, a French teacher at Marietta High School, live close to the Marietta Square and are active at Stonebridge Church. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.



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that committee. “One of the programs was that every neighborhood ought to have an event that says something about them, a signature event—a picnic, or festival, or tournament.”

Morris had been part of the original “Art on Freyer” group of artists that traveled from house to house with their art shows. He knew there was a group of very talented artists in his neighborhood and that an arts festival could be their neighborhood’s signature event. “So I came back and brought it up to the neighborhood group, and we decided that the arts festival would be doable,” said Morris. Since then, the festival has been held annually and has grown bigger each year.

The entire neighborhood participates in the event and preparations start the night before. Barricades are set up around 4 p.m. and the



Top Left: Ceramics by David Johnston

Bottom Left: Fingerless gloves by Elizabeth Seidle

Above: Planted bulbs by Martina Goscha

neighborhood kids decorate Etowah Drive with chalk art. Many people who live in Cherokee Heights have tents or tables in the festival with their artwork displayed. Other neighbors are affectionately called “roadies” who help set-up/tear-down and direct traffic.

It’s no wonder so many people from the neighborhood participate in the event. This 1920s era neighborhood was designed for friendship. “Fifteen years before the street was paved, there were concrete sidewalks,” said Morris. Neighbors become quick friends when you have short front yards and porches on the front of every home. “You just can’t be a stranger in this neighborhood, and it works for us.”

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Top: Wood art by Milton Miller-all proceeds go to the Make-a-Wish-Foundation.

Bottom: Tom Sawyer Pottery


“It was a pretty 1920s, roaring 20s neighborhood until the depression tore it apart. It suffered mightily from that and it’s made a comeback,” he added. This type of neighborhood attracts a certain type of person which perhaps explains the high concentration of artists here. Trapp Tischner, who took over the festival coordination from Morris this year, explained, “People that move here have commonalities that only move to old houses.”

Tischner didn’t participate in the first festival, but it didn’t take long for Morris to convince her that she had a latent artist within. “Jim has this idea that there is an artist inside of



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everybody,” Tischner said. When Tischner took a year off from teaching literature at Walton High School, she thought she would read all year. In the summer, Morris asked Tischner to make something for the festival. “Jim just kept bugging me and bugging me to do something. I have this friend who’s a jeweler, and another great friend, and we made these bracelets—really labor intensive. So I said, ‘Ok, I’ll be in your festival.’ And I had completely forgotten about it until, in October, they had the signs printed and it said ‘Trapp Tischner: Bracelets. I blame this all on Jim,’” said Tischner. Morris replied, “I take credit for it. She sold out! Within a month she had her jewelry in three different casino shops in Mississippi. She quit teaching the following year.”

Since then, Tischner’s jewelry business, TISCH Jewelry Werks, has grown tremendously and her handmade jewelry can be found in shops and festivals across the Southeast.

The festival is sponsored by local businesses to cover the costs of advertising, children’s art materials, and banners. “First Landmark Bank [now Center State Bank] was our first sponsor and has been with us every year,” said Tischner. The Marietta Police Department is sponsored by Keep Marietta Beautiful, who has a children’s tent at the festival. Mayor Tumlin, along with many other local businesses, also sponsor the event.

Like any good festival, the Cherokee Heights Arts Festival has music and food. The food this year will be served by the nearby restaurant, GOOD Kitchen + Market. Multiple bands will play throughout the day. “We have a group of drummers who start at 10 on Saturday morning,” Morris said, “Everything just brightens up when the music starts.”

On Saturday, November 9th, head out to what Morris describes as a “Compact, solidly-packed arts festival.” Gather your friends and family, shop for the perfect gift and make a day of the festival. 

CherokeeHeightsArtsFestival.org

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CHEROKEE HEIGHTS
Arts Festival

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& Seminole Drives in Marietta