

# MAYOR'S CORNER

As I sit in my office looking out over Main St. I am contemplating how fortunate all of us are to live in such a wondrous place as Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The recent Eaton Rapids Air event gives me pause as I think about how many elements have to come together to showcase a progressive and vibrant community.

I view it as a puzzle, each piece fitting together to form the picture. If one piece is missing the picture isn't complete. In many cases there is overlap. You may be an employee who also serves as a volunteer. You may be a volunteer who also serves as an employee. You may be a resident that just wants to be involved in the goings on. All of you contribute in some way. It is all of our jobs to be ambassadors.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those folks that worked so diligently to ensure the success of this event.

First, our volunteers: Danielle Raad, Donald West, Krysta and Mark McGee, Leah South, Lois Colestock, Chris Allen, Joseph Taranto, Alex Brooks, Bill Hicks, Ben Gellis, Deb Malewski, Jim Schnepf, The Eaton Rapids Area Historical Society, The Eaton County Sheriffs Office Mounted Division, Steve McKnight Construction and the Eaton Rapids CERT team.

What a diverse and hard working group.

Second, your city staff: Aaron Desentz, Lindsey Zeller, Kristy Reinecke, Doug Kunkel, James Morrison, Dalton Kunkel, Lee Sifton, John Nobach, Scott Perry, Steve Fuller, Todd Verhelle, Jeremy Kuykendoll, Mark Lease, Chris Scott, Troy Craven, Dexter Dakins, Julie Kunkel, Sheila Camp, Marrie Jo Carr, Anna Curtis, The Eaton Rapids District Library Staff, The Eaton Rapids Police Department and the Eaton Rapids Fire Department.

With their efforts the event proceeded smoothly and flawlessly. They all went above and beyond what was required.

My partners on the City Council: Councilwoman Colestock and Councilmen Wichman, Burke and Harri. Without their guidance and foresight events can be lost in the minutiae.

Our Donors: Ace Hardware, Abie's Bar, Babbitt Properties, Laura DeLong Realty, CRG Directories, Eaton Federal Savings Bank, Eaton Rapids Medical Center, Independent bank, LAFCU, M-99 Party store, Mergeners Printing, Ross and Associates, Eaton Rapids Rotary Club, Smoke and Bones Restaurant, Dowding Industries, Drs William and Nancy DeFrance, Turf Jockeys, The Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, CASA and Marks Place.

With their assistance we were able to pay the bills.

Our window decorators: Trivium Salon, Mr. Dale's, Darb's Patio, Mark's Place, Laura Delong Realty, The Locker Room, Ross and Associates, Edward Jones Investments, The Eaton Rapids District Library, Turtle Toms and Smith-Kitsmiller Insurance.

You brought joy and a WOW factor to our downtown.

When you read the list you will see the overlap. That's what community is about. Everybody being a part.

The biggest component: Our residents! We are glad you are here. Imagine what would have been had we thrown a party and nobody showed up.? Instead, you did show up and made our town a community.

Thank you all so much.

We are working very diligently on the Michigan Main Street and Project Rising Tides programs. These will bring a wealth of opportunities to enhance the livability of your town. On that note, we held a series of informational meetings for community members. We listened intently to what you wanted. One of the most often heard comments was "clean up the access roads coming into town." We have taken this to heart. Our Building Inspector is working diligently to make this happen. It only takes one poorly maintained property to impact an entire neighborhood. Please take the time to be a good neighbor and make your house a "jewel."

For informational purposes, smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all of our parks. It sends the wrong message to our younger park users and leads to the refuse problem.

It's up to all of us to make sure that Eaton Rapids continues to be a fantastic place to live, work, recreate and raise your family.