

Youth on Main Street *YOMS*



Presented by

Carola Lillie Hartley, Executive Director

Bridgeton Main Street
Bridgeton, NJ



Youth Advisory Board

Youth on Main Street (YOMS)



- Youth on Main Street (YOMS) is a group of young people from the community representing all community high schools
- YOMS members are responsible for assisting the Main Street Board of Directors in the development of an annual work plan for the Main Street (Downtown Revitalization) Program.
- YOMS is a liaison between the program and the youth of the community.



- YOMS advises the board of directors on the direction of the program
- YOMS members act as ambassadors in promoting historic preservation and downtown revitalization to area schools and youth organizations in the community.
- YOMS members serve as advocates of economic development through historic preservation in the community.
- YOMS members help to promote the historic downtown and all downtown activities.
- YOMS members promote historic preservation in the community.



YOMS

(continued)

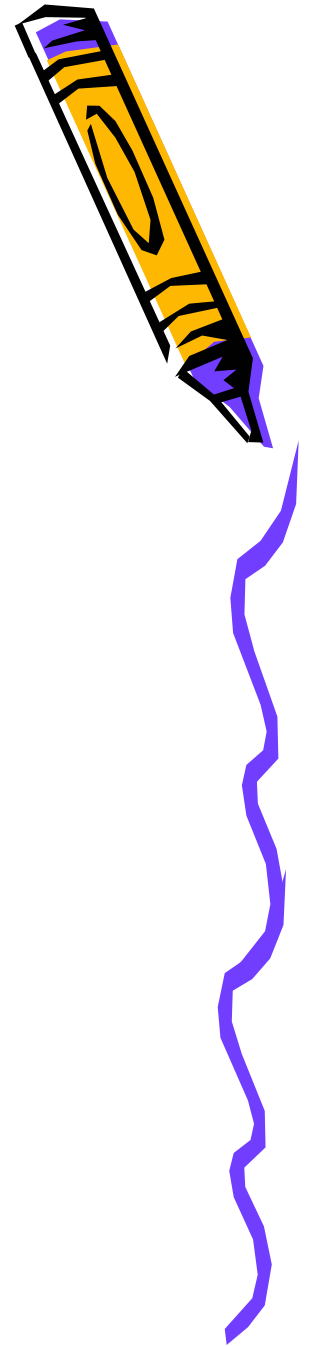


The key to creating a successful YOMS program is to let activities be fun as well as helpful.

YOMS (continued)



- In Addition, YOMS presents an opportunity for young citizens to become involved in public issues thus acquiring a greater knowledge and appreciation of their community.



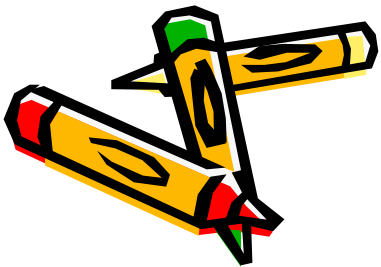
YOMS

- YOMS provides young citizens with the opportunity to voice their opinion in identifying community needs and planning community activities.

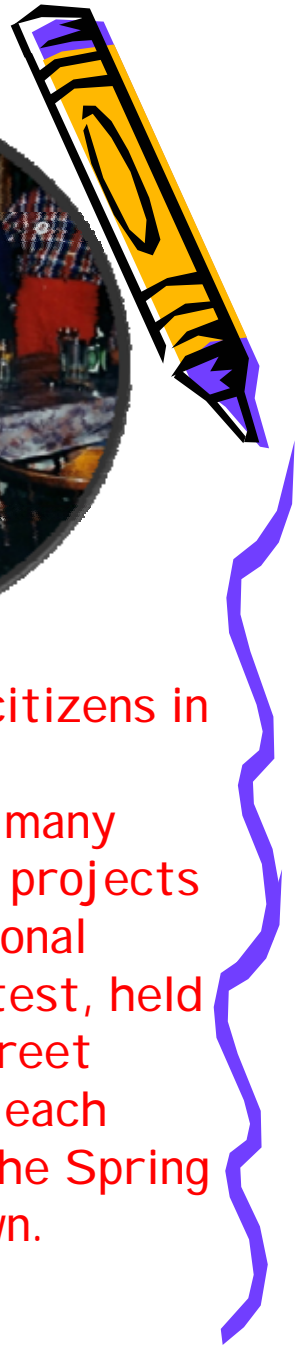


YOMS

- YOMS also allows young citizens to participate in the evaluation of downtown projects and activities and the impact they have on the community.
- This nurtures youth ownership of the community, and especially the downtown, which in turn empowers young people to develop leadership skills, and take their places as valuable, decision-making members of the community.
 - YOMS is "hands on" leadership training for young citizens.



Through YOMS young citizens in Opelousas, LA got the opportunity to work on many Main Street Opelousas projects including The International Cajun Joke Telling Contest, held each year, and Main Street Revived Concerts, held each Friday evening during the Spring in the historic downtown.



YOMS

Builds Partnerships

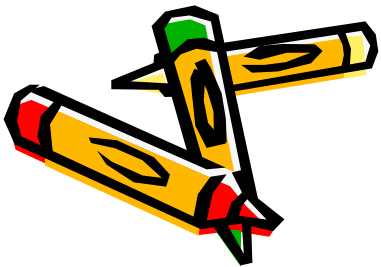


- YOMS builds partnerships between young people, the Main Street organization and the broader community.

Young citizens in Bridgeton, NJ volunteer to help with the Bridgeton Farmers' Market in the historic downtown during their summer break.



Photo by Flavia Alaya



YOMS

Builds Partnerships

- Partnerships can involve not only Main Street and young citizens, but also businesses, schools, other community organizations, social service agencies, and other groups in the community and the area.
- By bringing people together in collaboration, these partnerships can bridge intergenerational, ethnic, and cultural gaps; provide young people with strong role models; and strengthen community infrastructures.

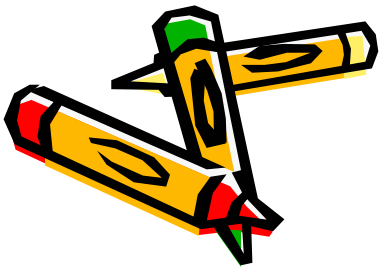


Photo by Flavia Alaya

Building strong partnerships benefits the downtown and the Main Street organization.



What YOMS Offers Young People

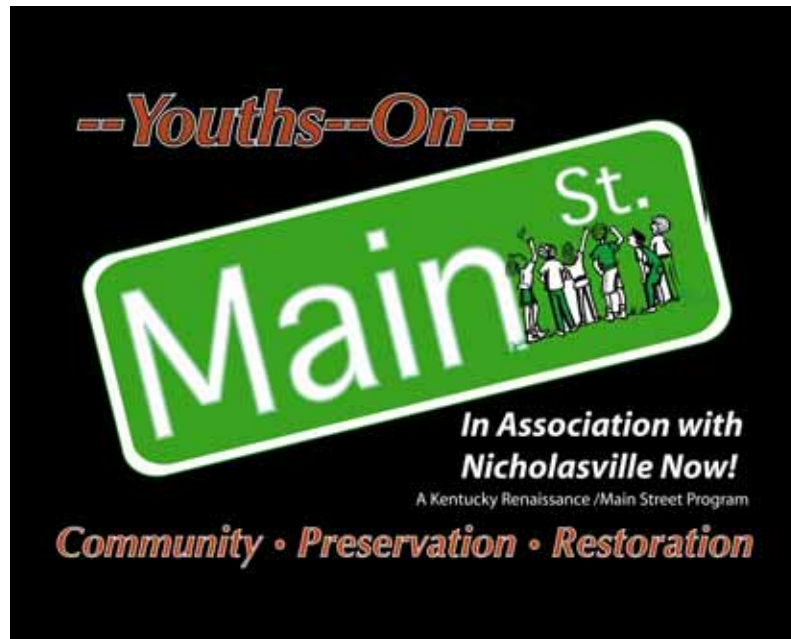
- Provides an opportunity for young citizens to acquire a greater knowledge and appreciation of the historic downtown of the community
- Educates youth that they can participate in community development, historic preservation and downtown revitalization activities and make a positive change in the community.
- Serves the youth of the community by informing community leaders and elected officials of the needs and wishes of young citizens.
- Helps the youth get involved in the community by planning and implementing social, educational, cultural, community service and recreational activities for young citizens, especially in the historic downtown.



Young folks in Nicholasville, KY volunteered their time to help "spruce up" their downtown.



What YOMS Offers



In Nicholasville, KY each members of YOMS got a really neat T-shirt, sponsored by a local bank.



- Teaches young people to work with public officials, school administrators, chambers of commerce, civic clubs, non-profit groups, service organizations and other public/private groups.
- Creates a feeling of positive worth and self esteem in young people.
- Teaches teamwork and respect for the rights and property of others.
- Promotes community pride and helps eliminates potential negative influences among the future leaders of the community.
- Helps the community fight the influence of gangs on their young citizens.



Opelousas, LA
YOMS tour a
historic
preservation
project in
downtown.



Potential YOMS Members



- Young people in the community who are interested in community development and historic preservation.
- Young people who want to acquire community service hours.
- Young people from each high school in your community. (Remember to invite a large number of Freshman to be on the committee.)
- At risk teenagers who need to feel wanted and respected in the community
- Young people who want something to do!



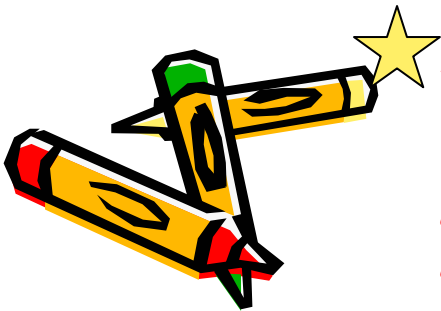
Adult Supervision



Appoint a chairperson from your organization to work with the YOMS group.
Be sure this person is available to attend most of the YOMS meetings



- If the YOMS group meets on their own, be sure a parent or some adult is in attendance at the meetings.
- You may also want to involve a group of young adults (the 20s and 30s age group) from the community in the YOMS project. They could help to meet with, and guide the group

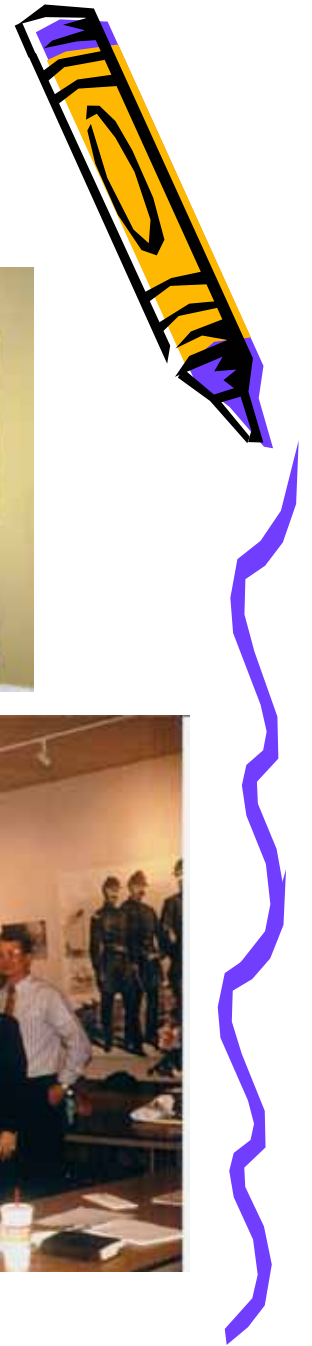


Remember to make time for fun activities that celebrate achievements as well as work activities.



Organizing the *YOMS* Group

- Contact the high schools in your area to see if there is a teacher who would be interested in helping you.
- Get names of interested youth from all the high schools in your community. In the beginning, you may want to get a lot of freshman involved. Continue inviting freshman each year.
- Send out letters to these young people inviting them to participate.
- Call an organizational meeting at a time most young people can attend.



Organizing YOMS

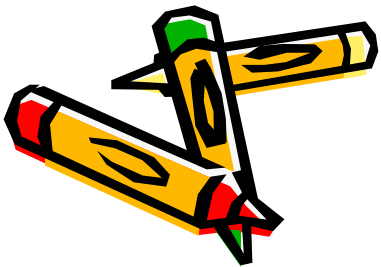
(Continued)



- At the first meeting, once the group gets to know each other, have an election of officers. These officers should include: Chairperson, co-chairperson, secretary and possibly treasurer and historian.
- Decide on a scheduled meeting time and place.
- Once the group starts to meet, have them decide on projects and activities for the year.
- Invite the group to get involved in Main Street Projects and Activities.



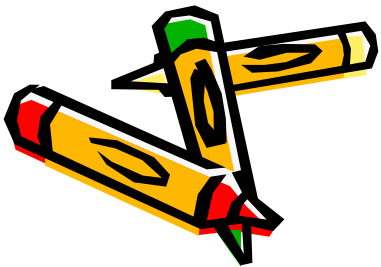
Be sure to include some meeting time in the beginning to educate the group about Main Street, community development, downtown revitalization and historic preservation.



YOMS

Some Dos

- Do get your MS Board to officially make this youth committee a part of your organization
- Do make sure your YOMS committee, or team, has young people representing all the high schools, or Junior high schools, in your community. (One of the goals for YOMS is to bring students together to help build pride in the community.)
- Do provide the group with T-shirts.



In Nicholasville, KY, cheerleaders from East Jessamine High and West Jessamine High got together on the grounds of the historic downtown courthouse to give a cheer for THEIR community.

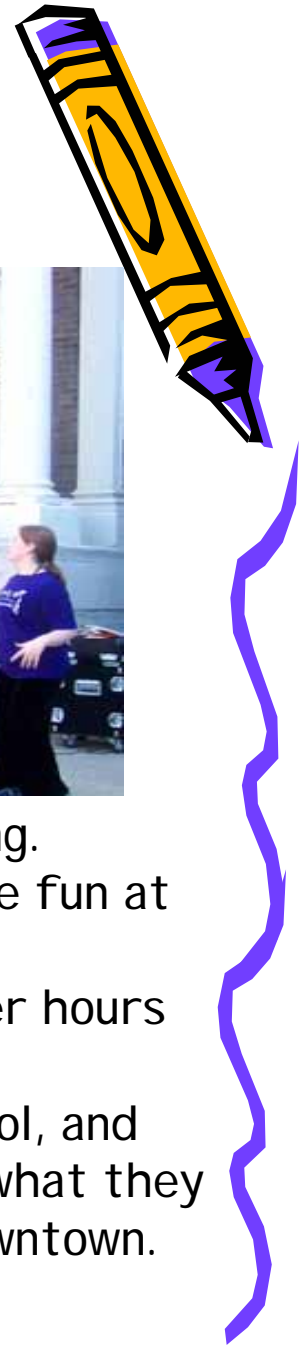


YOMS – More Dos

- Do have training for your youth team. Be sure they know and understand the importance of a healthy, viable downtown and what that means for your community.
 - Make sure they understand the four points and eight principles of Main Street.
- Do make sure you “check out” any adult who volunteers to work with the young people of your community. **(Very Important!)**



- Do keep it fun and exciting.
 - You can work and have fun at the same time.
- Do keep track of volunteer hours for your YOMS
 - Make sure their school, and the community, know what they contribute to your downtown.



YOMS

Some Don'ts

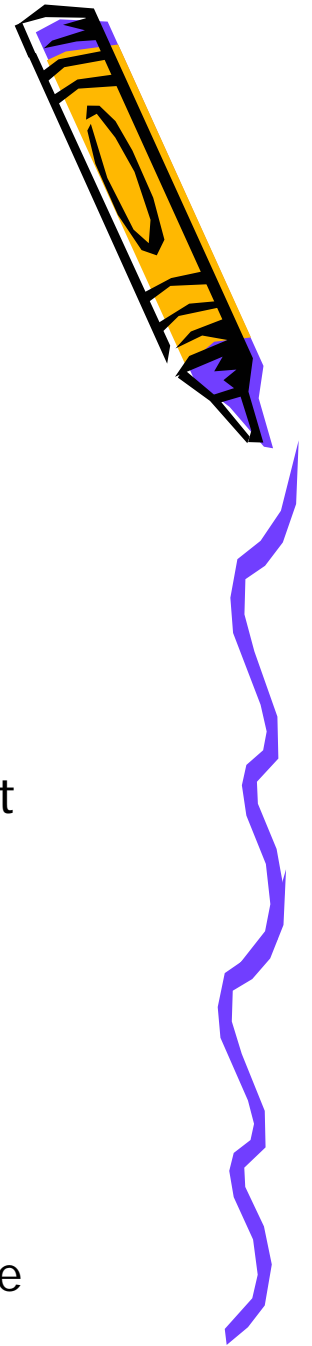


Don't be too rigid.

- Allow some flexibility for your YOMS team.

Don't make all the decisions.

- Let the youth team decide on projects and activities they can do, with your guidance and support (of course).
- Don't give the group responsibilities they will find stressful and difficult to handle.
- Don't get carried away and give YOMS too much to do.
 - Remember high school students already have a lot going on with schoolwork, school activities, home chores, etc.



YOMS

More Don'ts

- Don't mix too many age groups into your YOMS.
 - High school students seem to do best with YOMS.
 - Let these older students plan activities that will bring more people into downtown while benefiting the younger elementary and Junior high students.
- Don't let the young group do things on their own without getting the OK from your Main Street organization.
 - Make sure this is understood in the very beginning!



A downtown Easter Egg Hunt for young children in the community is a good YOMS activity. Not only is it fun for the children, it brings parents and adults into downtown. In this photo a YOMS member plays the Easter Bunny to the delight of the younger children.



YOMS Projects

Nicholasville, KY



- **Nicholasville Pride Program**
Building individual and community pride while encouraging community service.
- **Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship**
Presented to a graduating senior from a Nicholasville High School each year.



A lot of emphasis is placed on community service hours for this award and scholarship.

Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship
A Project of Nicholasville News' Youth on Main

Guidelines

History: The Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship is given each year to the graduating senior of a high school in the city of Nicholasville who has shown pride in the community by working with Nicholasville, Kentucky city/community/county-based organizations and volunteering for community events and service projects.

Sponsorship: The Nicholasville Pride News' Youth on Main Committee with 4 downtown revitalization and community development projects has donated a \$500.00 or more scholarship.

Criteria: To be considered for the Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must be a graduating senior.
2. The student must have gained over 100 hours of community service on his/her own.
3. The student must show a genuine interest in the city of Nicholasville through attitude and example.
4. The student must participate in a community service project, or some other gain.

Nomination and Selection: Each year, nominations for the Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship are accepted from the students for nomination, a nomination is accepted from the Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship Committee. Deadline for nomination is the first of the year. The student must receive the award and scholarship money.

Presentation: The Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship is presented to the honored student at the Awards Presentation ceremony.

For information: To obtain additional information, please contact Nicholasville News' Youth on Main at 859-583-5292. FAX: 859-583-1211. E-mail: youthonmain@nicholasvillenews.com

Nicholasville Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship
A Project of Nicholasville News' Youth on Main

Student Nomination Form

Name _____ School _____
 School Address _____ Phone Number _____
 Principal _____
 Total Community Service Hours during all high school years _____
 Volunteered for the following community projects _____
 Worked with the following city/community organizations and/or service projects _____
 Signature of Principal _____ Date _____

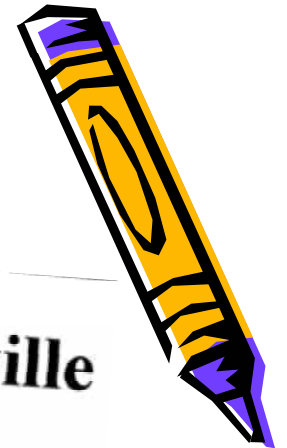




- Downtown Architectural Scavenger Hunt

YOMS Projects

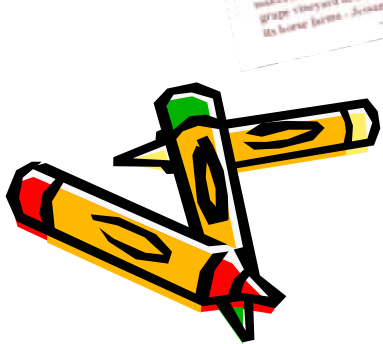
(Continued)



YOMS Projects

(continued)

- **Something To Crow About Rally**
 - A rally in celebration of Nicholasville. Held in downtown Nicholasville, all schools and local citizens were involved.



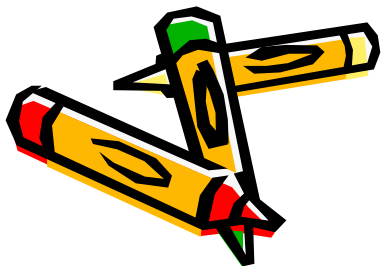
This was an image building project designed to show pride in the community.

YOMS Projects

Something To Crow About Rally



*Building
Nicholasville
Pride*



YOMS Projects

(continued)

- YOMS Youth Ambassadors (assisting with Nicholasville Now projects and activities)



YOMS members assisted Nicholasville Now! in hosting a tour group from Florennes, Belgium in April of 2003.

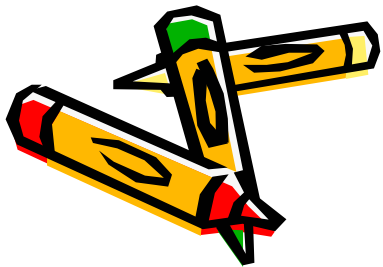


YOMS

Nicholasville, Kentucky



- Downtown Easter Egg Hunt



YOMS

Youth Ambassadors Nicholasville, KY



★ *Members of YOMS act as youth ambassadors in the community, assisting Nicholasville Now! with many community projects and activities.*



YOMS Projects

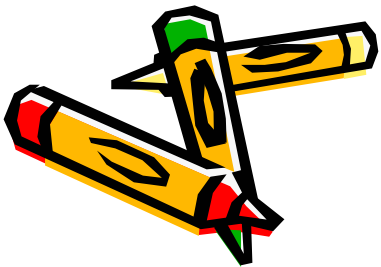
Greensburg, KY

Youth Ambassadors

- When Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana and Mississippi along the Gulf Coast, the Greensburg Youth Ambassadors worked to collect items to help the folks who were displaced by the storm. These items were sent to the gulf coast to give to those in need.



- Students from the high school in Greensburg, KY are trained to help give tours of the historic downtown



YOMS

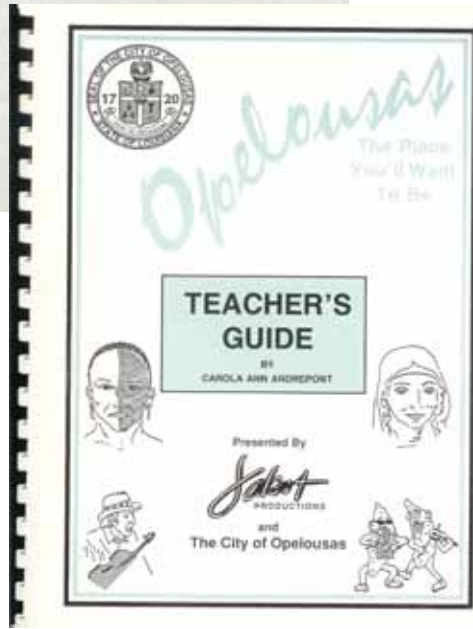
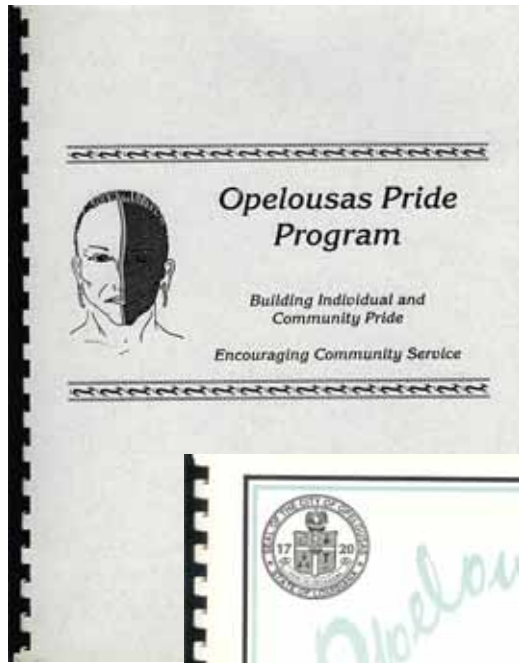
Greensburg, KY

- Young citizens of Green County help Greensburg Main Street with downtown activities and events in the historic county seat including Cow Days and Christmas on the Square holiday festivities.



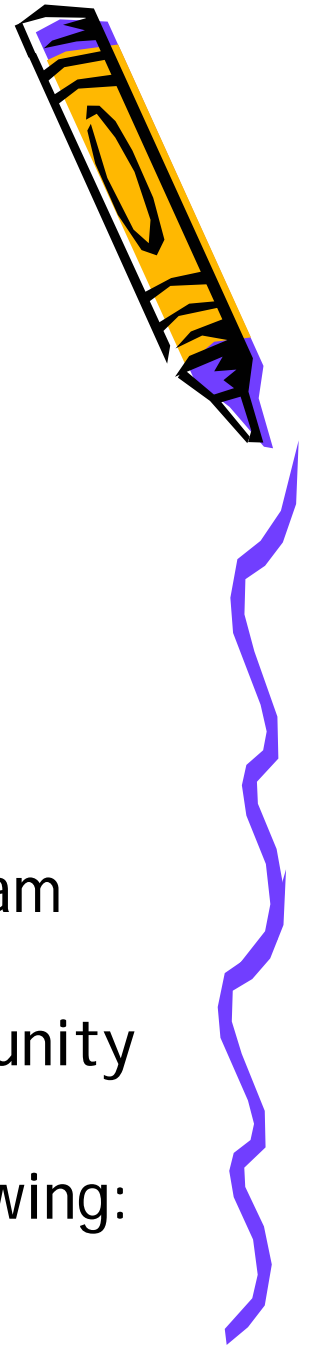
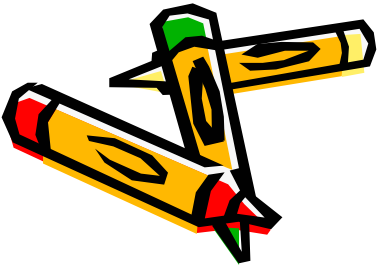
YOMS Projects

Opelousas, LA



Projects promoting
historic preservation,
community pride and
community service

- The Opelousas Pride Program developed to promote community pride and community service among its young citizens, included the following:



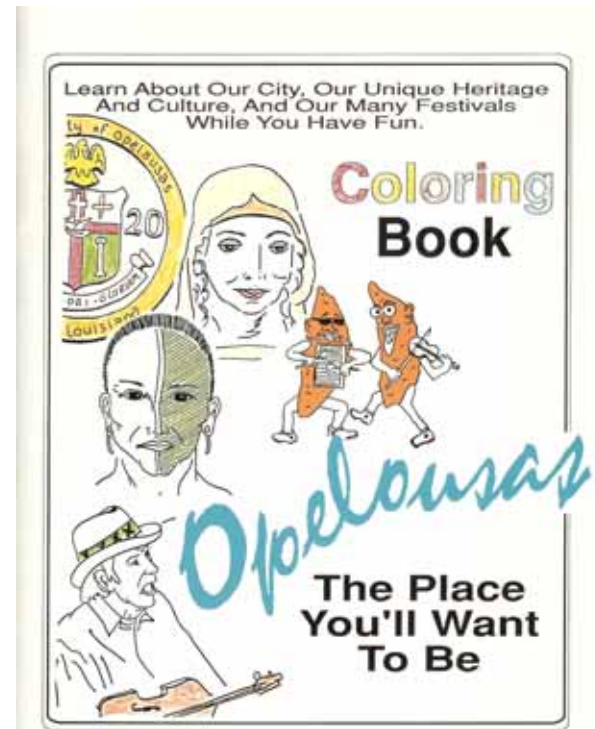
YOMS

Opelousas Pride Program

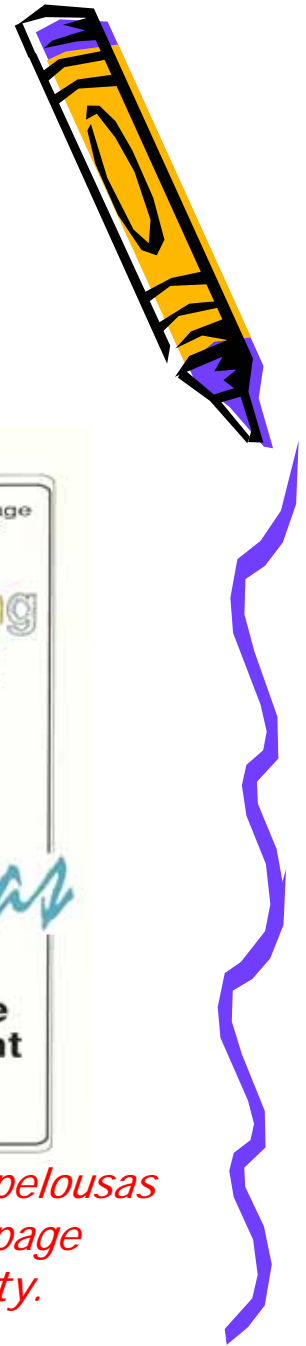
1. **The Place You'll Want To Be Elementary Program:** Provided educational information about the community to teachers and pupils in all 3rd grades at all city elementary schools.

Included:

- Videos
- Coloring Books
- Teacher's Guide Books
- Buttons
- Achievement Awards
- T-shirts
- Teachers' Kits
- School Kits

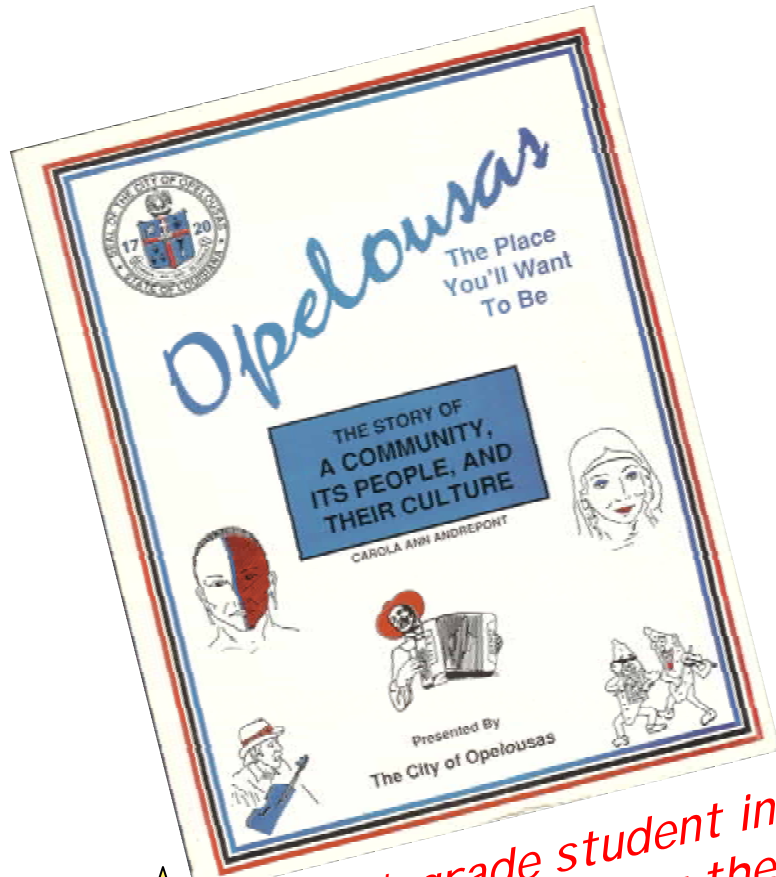
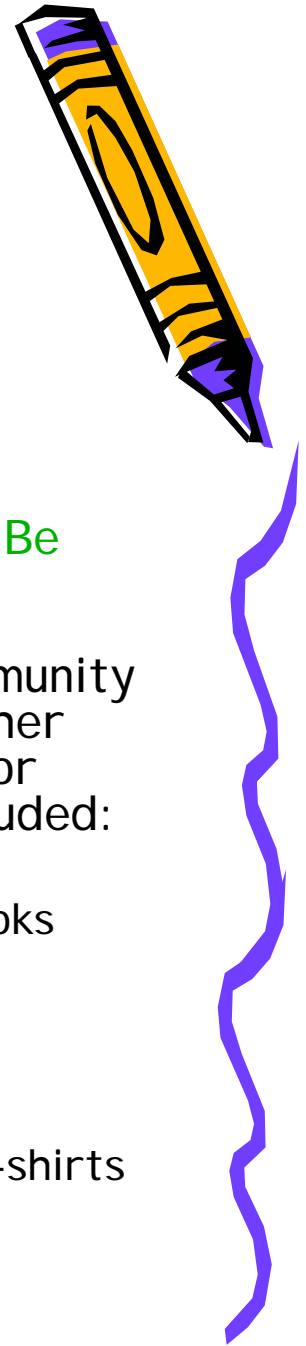


★ *People, places and things from Opelousas were drawn and included in a 20 page coloring book about the community.*



YOMS

Opelousas Pride Program



★ Every 8th grade student in the city got a book telling the story of the community, its people and their culture.

2. The Place You Want To Be Junior High Program:
Provided educational information on the community to every 8th grade teacher and pupil at all city junior highs. Information included:

- Videos
- Community History Books
- Teacher's Guide Books
- Buttons
- Achievement Award Certificates
- Achievement Award T-shirts
- Teachers' Kits
- School Kit



YOMS

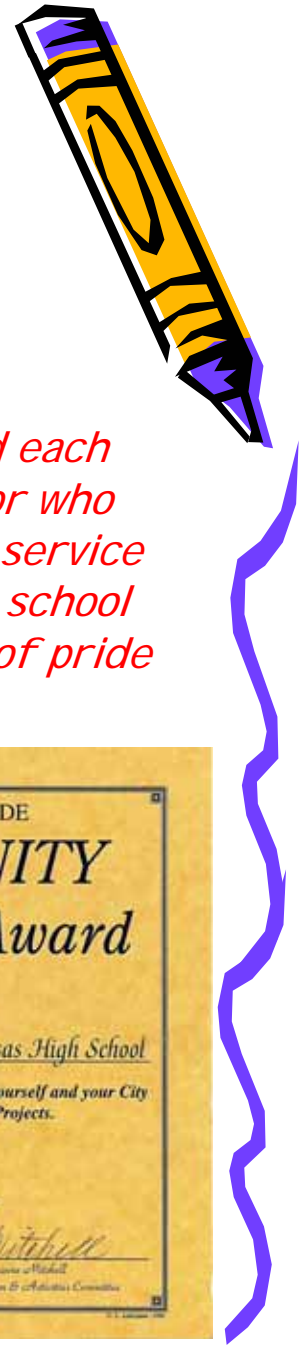
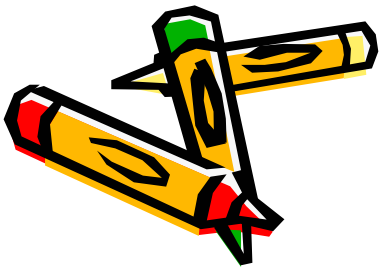
Opelousas Pride Program

3. The Place You Want To Be High School Program: Provided every high school in the community with information on the city for the library including:

- Videos
- Community History Books
- Teacher's Guide Books
- Literature for High school students encouraging them to:
 - Join the Youth on Main Street Program
 - Tour the community museum and the historic downtown
 - Learn about historic preservation
 - Participate in community service projects and apply for the annual Opelousas Pride Community Service Award and Scholarship

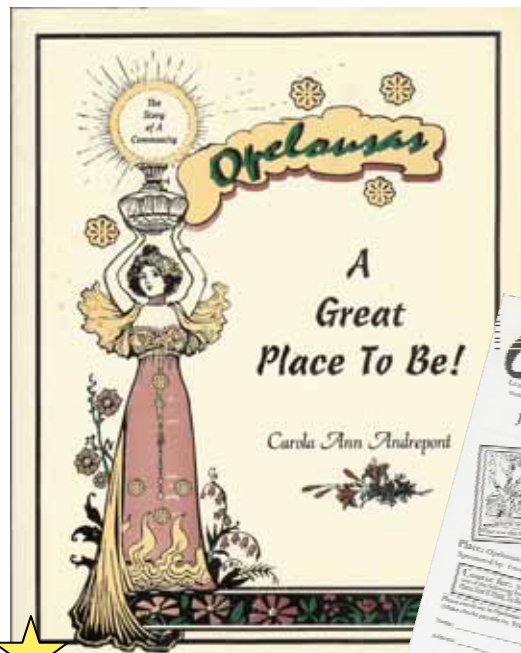


This award was presented each year to a graduating senior who gave the most community service hours during his/her high school years, exhibiting a sense of pride in the community.



YOMS

Opelousas Pride Program

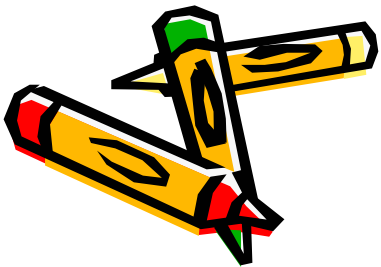


History classes on the community were conducted at different time throughout the year. Young people from the city were encouraged to attend.



4. The Place You Want To Be Community Program: Provided historical and educational information on the city to all citizens of the community. Included:

- Community Videos
- Community History Books
- Opelousas Museum and Interpretative Center Tours
- Tours of Historic downtown buildings and sites
- Local FAM tours
- Opelousas 101 Classes - teaching the history of the community



YOMS

Newton, New Jersey

Architectural Scavenger Hunt

- **Arkiditecture Hunt** for students in downtown Newton in May, 2006
 - Students spent the day discovering architectural treasures in historic downtown Newton



Main Street Newton
arkiditecture
hunt



YOMS

Newton, New Jersey

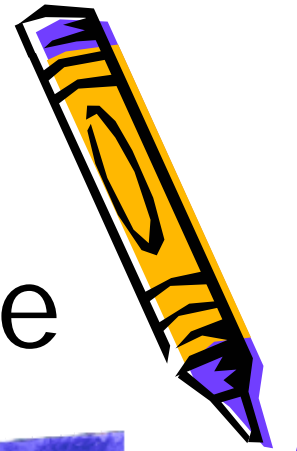


- Main Street New Jersey Designation Ceremony Youth Choir & Band performed in downtown
 - Youth Concerts in downtown
 - October 2007
 - July 12, 2008
 - 2009

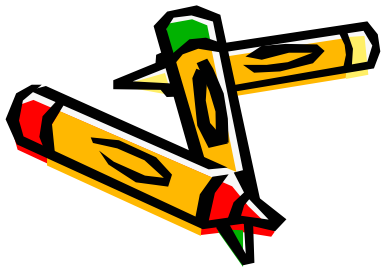


YOMS Newton, NJ

Something in the Square



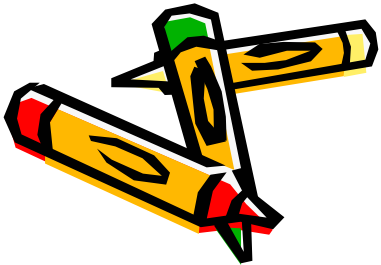
- Youth Concert held on Saturday, July 12, 2008 on the Newton Green in downtown Newton.



YOMS

Newton, New Jersey

- Other Activities Involving the Youth of the community included:
 - St. Patrick's Day Parade
 - Christmas Parade
 - Halloween Parade
 - Newton Day Festival
 - LunchFest on the Square
 - Second Saturday
 - Mardi Gras on Spring Street



YOMS

Bridgeton Main Street Bridgeton, New Jersey



Photo by Flavia Alaya

- Bridgeton Farmers' Market
 - Kids Day at the Market
 - Dawg Day at the Market
- Bridgeton Cinco de Mayo
- Lincolns for Lincoln

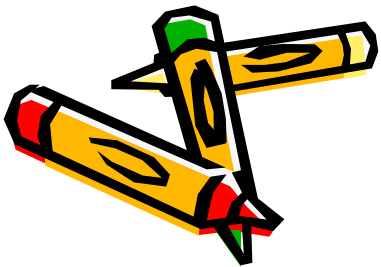


YOMS

Bridgeton, NJ



Bridgeton
Cinco de Mayo
Cultural Fest
held in
downtown



Photos by Flavia Alaya

YOMS

Bridgeton, NJ Farmers' Market



Photos by Flavia Alaya

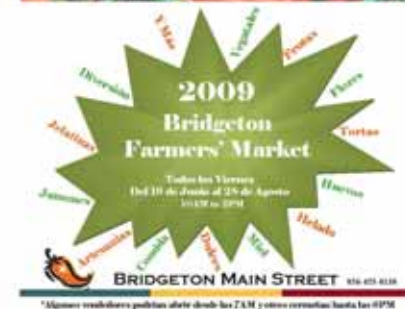
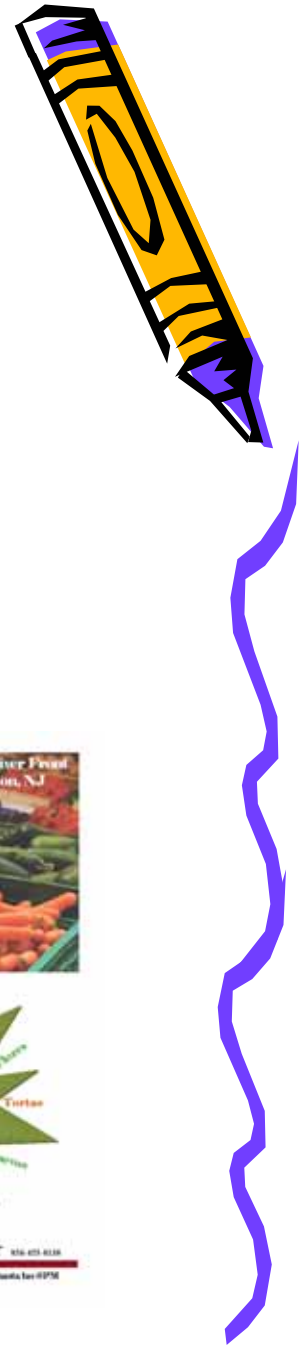


Young citizens volunteer to help with this project held each summer on the River Front in historic downtown Bridgeton, located in the largest historic district in New Jersey.



YOMS

Bridgeton, NJ Farmers' Market



Photos by Flavia Alaya





YOMS

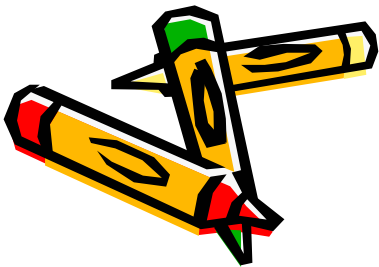
Bridgeton, NJ



Lincolns for Lincoln

In celebration of the 200th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln

- Young people were encouraged to collect pennies and \$5.00 bills to donate to Bridgeton Main Street



Youth On Main Street



For additional information
contact:

Carola Lillie Hartley

Executive Director

Bridgeton Main Street

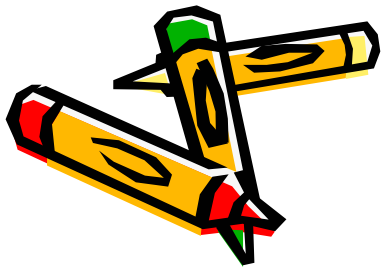
59 East Commerce Street

Bridgeton, NJ 08302

856-453-8130 or 973-864-4001

carolahartley@aol.com

bridgetonmainstreet@verizon.net



BRIDGETON MAIN STREET

