



# It's More than Business as Usual this Holiday Season

I got a text the other night. It was from a business associate who lives in Brunswick apologizing for not being able to attend a meeting. The text said he needed to go pick up a dear friend who was down on his luck and needed a hand. This past weekend I got a call from a Brunswick business owner who wanted to share with me a wonderful song she had wrote with her husband (to the tune of "Green Acres") that was all about Brunswick! About 2 months ago I met a gentlemen in front of City Hall who was sitting in the sunshine but seemed a little down. He opened up and told me of some life challenges. He asked if I saw the storm coming. I told him, yes. He said, "I think I am going to turn this day around and dance in between the rain drops!"

My job here at Brunswick Main Street has gifted me with these encounters and it made me think about the word "community." So, I looked it up. "A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common," was the definition in Google. It was missing words like, passionate, caring, strong, and diverse. And it didn't at all describe neighbor helping neighbor.

The community in Brunswick has made an impact at Brunswick Main Street. This year it has been so much more than business as usual in the office. We have strived to listen to our neighbors and act accordingly.



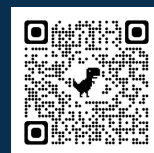
*We* dedicated his past year to building relationships.  
This has taken many forms...

- The "Take a Seat, Make a Friend" activity at the downtown July 4th celebration, where I met many of you and enjoyed the laughs we had.
- The Community meeting we held in August, where people told us what they wanted to see happen with the Kaplon Building. I was honored to meet almost 30 people that night. BMS is currently working to follow up with community initiatives that we believe will make a strong impact.
- The grant we were awarded to hire an engineering company to do a comprehensive report on connecting the Towpath/Potomac River with our downtown. We continue to work on this project with the City in an effort to keep our community safe and work around our active train tracks.
- The partnership we have with the City to assist in creating a new downtown park with interactive features.
- The work we've done to improve the appearance of our downtown by going after ARPA and other state funds to help building and business owners refurbish their older properties.

**I tell you this for two reasons. #1 We are very proud of the work that Brunswick Main Street has done this year and the relationships we have built. #2 We continue to need your support. Every donation we get helps us continue to our hard work. Many of you helped us last year and we raised almost \$3,000.00! Can we beat that this year?!**

**THANKS to all who gave and please consider giving this year:**

- **Online:** [www.brunswickmainstreet.org/supportbms](http://www.brunswickmainstreet.org/supportbms) or use QR code
- **Mail a Check:** Brunswick Main Street, P.O. Box 72, Brunswick, MD 21716



We ask you to consider Brunswick Main Street when you plan your holiday giving. Together we can make our community the best it can possibly be for EVERYBODY. And then our definition of community can be:

*"A place where neighbor helps neighbor, that cares for those less fortunate, that raises its children in a manner that values their differences, that shares common ground in the fellowship of always striving for a better tomorrow."*

Wishing You and Yours a Joyous Holiday,

*Carmen Hilton*  
Brunswick Main Street Manager