



For Immediate Release: July 20, 2010
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Annual July 3rd STREET DANCE & BBQ Is On Again in Downtown Winslow!!

(Bainbridge Island, Wash.) The July 3rd Street Dance and BBQ, one of the community's most treasured traditions, is on again this year despite coming precariously close to not happening. Thanks to the generosity of a few long-time Islanders and downtown business owners who realized the importance of preserving such a deeply-rooted local tradition, the streets will fill with children, parents, and grandparents who come to downtown Winslow each July 3rd to see old friends, enjoy local food and music, and dance in the streets.

"This is an event that came very close to disappearing," says Downtown Association Executive Director, Andrea Mackin. "Changes in the economy over the past two years left many of our usual sponsors with far fewer dollars to support local activities. Early in the year we began discussing the possibility that the Street Dance might not happen this year, but somehow just couldn't reconcile losing something that means so much to our community." COLUMBIA Bank (new owner of American Marine Bank) was the first to step forward with initial support that essentially saved the event. "Somehow, even as newcomers to Winslow, they realized the importance of preserving this hometown tradition. This speaks volumes about their desire to be a part of our community."

Once word hit the streets that the beloved annual event might not happen, several downtown property owners and businesses stepped forward, ultimately providing the funding that was necessary to declare the event a "go". Support from Town & Country Markets, Virginia Mason Winslow Clinic, The Island Gateway, Wilderrest, San Juan Navigation, and a special emergency grant from the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island make this year's Street Dance **a true community event**. Media support from The Bainbridge Review also helped get word out.

In recent years, a thriving economy had allowed the event to expand and include blow up rides, a climbing wall, and a more carnival-like atmosphere. BIDA Executive Director Mackin said that "As we looked for ways to keep the event alive this year, a need to scale things back to a more reasonable footprint also emerged. Perhaps the best part of looking at what really matters here is that the sponsors echoed our desire to see the Street Dance return to its original roots: One big party in downtown Winslow for the entire community – just food, music, sidewalk chalk and a chance to meet up with friends you don't see much of the rest of the year." "Oh, and YES! The Oasis Beer & Wine Garden will be back - this year it will be across Winslow Way in front of Embellish, just west of T & C's parking lot."

Gone are the giant bouncy castles and endless lines for tickets. This year's event will be cash-only for food, beer & wine, and some great kids' crafts and activities provided by the newly reopened Kids Discovery Museum, FREE sidewalk chalk provided by Calico Cat Toy Shoppe, and most of the usual food, music and fun you remember!

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

The Intensely Vigorous Revolutionary Dixieland Band plays throughout the afternoon at the gazebo at Winslow Green.

The Lubricators kick off the evening at 6 p.m. on the East Stage along with local deejay **Brant Butte** creates a vibrant dance mix that will wrap up the late evening.

The Original Fendershirts, will headline on the West Stage in front of the Winslow bank plaza by Columbia and CHASE banks starting at 7:00 pm.

FOOD

The Bainbridge Island Historical Museum will fire up the grill for hot dogs on main street at 6:00 pm. Other local restaurants offering tasty options include **BI BBQ, Casa Rojas Express, Clara's Wok and Mirracoles Morsels**.

FUN

New fun as a pie eating contest joins the July 3rd lineup! 25 freshly baked pies courtesy of **Blackbird Bakery** invite healthy competition starting with the celebrity round at 8:15 pm, followed by two additional rounds to determine the winners.

Kids and grownups can come down early, stake out a chunk of sidewalk, and do a little street art with sidewalk chalk, courtesy of **Calico Cat Toy Shoppe**. Pick up chalk at one of the BIDA "Buy Local" booths. KidiMu will have crafts and activities for kids at their booth on Winslow Way.

DETAILS

Remember, **Winslow Way closes at 4:30 pm on July 3rd just west of the T & C parking lot through downtown to Madison.**

For more information about the event, contact the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association at 206-842-2982, or visit our website at www.bainbridgedowntown.org.

**** This event presented by the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association ****

The Bainbridge Island Downtown Association (BIDA) seeks to promote downtown Winslow as a place where the Island can gather and enjoy what truly makes our community special. BIDA is responsible for the economic vitality and sustainability of Bainbridge Island's downtown retail and business core, and seeks to support our downtown businesses through economic revitalization efforts under the Main Street Four Point Approach.

Since 1998, Bainbridge Island Downtown Association has been recognized as an accredited Main Street™ Program by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. One of only 11 Main Street™ communities in Washington State and one of over 1,800 in the country.