

A New Season for Imagine Main Street

Imagine Main Street, begun in 2012 to use arts as a catalyst for change in Downtown Manchester, continues its seasonal street festivals in May running monthly through September.

"The first Thursday, May through September, you'll find great musical entertainers, unique and varied artists, wonderful vendors with a wide assortment of products to sell, and many surprises of course," said Joyce Hodgson, Program Director and Chairperson of Imagine Main Street.

Hodgson recently took on the role of Chairperson of Imagine Main Street when Steve Gates stepped down from that role. Gates, a Town Director, provided guidance and support to IMS since its inception and continues to be an advisor for the non-profit.

"Imagine will be taking a good, long look at itself and our roots to see if we're happy with where we are and what we do, or if we need to expand and change our focus", Hodgson said. A gathering of community members will be held in the coming months to provide feedback and ideas.

The organization has a core committee who plan the monthly events, but more people are needed to further engage the community and promote to those who don't hear about the events because of marketing barriers. "Not everyone reads the paper, sees the lawn signs, picks up the flyers", Hodgson said. "We get greater exposure by word of mouth and the engagement of the vendors and musicians, but we can do a better job".

Volunteers and participants can contact Hodgson by writing to her at info@imaginemainstreet.com or via the website and facebook page.

Dates for the new season are May 3 with a focus on young musicians and artists, June 7, July 5, August 2 and September 6. Young people (up to age 18) who are musicians, artists, poets, sell hand made products, are encouraged to register for the May 3rd event. All events run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in various downtown Manchester locations.