

August 31, 2006

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

The End of July Festival was a resounding success and I have you to thank for it!

After the police roused the vagrants out of Bluff City Memorial Veterans Urban Public Park, we had well over forty-eight people attend the festival during the eight-hour event. Those folks enjoyed delicious food provided by our corporate sponsor, Mike's Pickle Palace. There were some complaints about a lack of balanced diet (evidently not everyone likes potato salad and tuna fish sandwiches), but the Bluff City Health Commissioner assured us that potato salad is the perfect food, providing all the necessary vitamins and minerals in one tasty package.

Since there was a substantial amount of food left after the event, we generously donated the remaining banquet to the Bluff City Homeless Shelter. Surprisingly, thirty-two of the event attendees were also "residents" of the shelter, so they enjoyed the potato salad and tuna fish sandwiches for a second time!

The event, however, was not without mishap. It seems the potato salad sat out a bit too long, which sent eighteen people to the hospital with botulism. My sincerest apologies to those fine folks. There was also a brief invasion of fire ants, whose bites are especially painful and sent another twelve people to the hospital. My thanks go out to the Parks Department employees who bravely drove off the ants with propane torches. My sincerest appreciation goes to the firefighters at Station 12 who so quickly responded to the small fire that broke out in the park. Thankfully, we only lost the front of the park pavilion. The Parks Department Director expects to have a new pavilion constructed by this time next summer.

The weather was beautiful for the first two hours of the event, but we all must remember how quickly humid summer storms can blow up. The hard rain drove everyone into the still smoldering pavilion, which proved to be a bad idea when the tornado touched down. The weather service claims it was only an F2 twister (with 151 MPH wind speeds), but it still managed to topple a dozen old trees and demolish the rest of the pavilion. Luckily, no one was killed, but another twelve people were sent to the hospital with bruises and breaks.

Once again I wish to thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation and support for this enjoyable event. Your involvement made it a rousing success! We'll see you at next year's End of July Festival!

Sincerely,
Percy J. Brown

Your Honorable Mayor
Of Bluff City