



Cultural Arts Council
of Douglasville/Douglas County

PRESS RELEASE
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For more information:
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The 19th Annual Chili Cook-Off Was a Huge Success!

Douglasville, Georgia – On Saturday, October 24th, Douglasville’s biggest block party crowded into O’Neal Plaza in downtown Douglasville with chili fans busy sampling the best from over two dozen participants. By all accounts the packed Plaza held the biggest crowd in recent memory. Chili, costumes, rivalries and comraderie – all packed into every available space on a beautiful evening in Douglasville! This event, produced by the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County is both a fund raising event for the Arts Council and a grand community tradition and celebration. Chili Cook-Off is made possible by sponsorship by John Bleakley Ford, Georgia Power and DC Rogue Runners.

The winner of the highly competitive award of “**Most Chili Sold**” this year was Michael Barnhill for Sheriff, with an astonishing 149 ticket sales ahead of his closest competitor. A panel of judges, Michael Tully, David Manny, and Sid Miller, coordinated by CAC Board member Alison Williams, judged which of the 25 chili cooks would be awarded the coveted “**Best Tasting Chili**” prize. This year’s award was presented to Terry Miller for Mayor with a delicious New Orleans inspired Chili ; the “**Spiciest Chili**” award was given to BB&T for their “Male Chauvinist Chili.” Stephanie Alyworth and Helen Albrightson deliberated together on judging the “**Best Decorated Booth**” and top honors went to West Georgia Board of Realtors for turning their booth into a house, complete with windows and flower boxes!

For the attending children, on the other hand, it was their first chance to try out their Halloween costumes. The **Children’s Halloween Costume Contest**, coordinated by Tiffany Stewart Stanley, proved more popular than ever, and the panel of judges –June Keen, Tina Mattox, and CAC Staff member Joi Jamison – faced tough decisions in awarding prizes for most creative costuming, but every child was a delight at the 2015 Chili Cookoff! Prizes were awarded in three age groups: for the kindergarteners and younger, the prize-winner was *Brynlee Gentry* who came as “Cruella De Vil” from 101 Dalmatians; for elementary school students, *Ava Fasone* won for her “Queen of Disco;” and for middle and high school students, *Katie Morgan* was the stand-out with her “Fairytale” outfit. Ameriprise Financial donated gift certificates for the winning costumes and Publix provided a “live” Plato to roam the downtown plaza providing an interesting sight when the dinosaur met the Star Wars Ranger!

An estimated 3,000 people participated, and a large number of people volunteered their efforts to make Chili Cook-Off 2015 such a success. Chaired by Tamara Manny, Chili Cook-Off was supported by over 70 people of all ages who did everything from baking cookies to providing coolers, from hanging banners to emcee duties, and so much more.

Kevin Livingston and his 4-H handled all the dessert, drink and hot-dog sales, and they sold out of more than 48 dozen cookies and sold just shy of 1,000 drinks! The “Peacemakers” Choir started the night off performing beautiful songs under the direction of Reginald Ferguson. To end the night, the very talented Tyler Blount played guitar and sang.

Most importantly, facing a long weekend full of outdoor events in downtown Douglasville (Hot Rods on Main Street, Gravity Races, Chili Cook-Off and the Moonlight Run), the City Maintenance Crew under the direction of Greg Roberts and Happy Howard were invaluable and did an exemplary job with efficient change-overs between events, promptly responding whenever needed, providing a fast clean-up afterwards, and, most of all, shared an unfailingly pleasant and helpful attitude throughout.

Chili Cook-Off 2015 is now one for the books and plans will be made for 2016 – the 20th Anniversary of this traditional block party -- to be even more fun. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 22, 2016!

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County, located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, is open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For directions or more information, visit www.artsdouglas.org or contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770-949-2787.

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The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups. The programs and activities of the Cultural Arts Council are supported in part by the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Michael Barnhill for Sheriff won the Most Chili Sold Award
2. West GA Board of Realtors won the Best Decorated Booth Award – they turned their tent into a house! Complete with windows and flower boxes!!
3. Terry Miller won the Best Tasting Chili Award; BB&T Bank won the spiciest Chili Award
4. Brynlee Gentry in her winning “Cruella De Vil” costume in the under 5 age group.
5. Ava Fasone won the 1st - 5th grade age group competition with her “Queen of the Disco” costume
6. Katie Morgan won in the 6th- 12th grade age group with her “Fairytale” costume.

