



132 West King Street ~ P.O. Box 42
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Dear Friend of the Chamber:

As I am sure you have heard or read, the donation the Strasburg Chamber of Commerce has received from the Town of Strasburg since 2001 was reallocated to a line item in the town's budget for Mayfest. Due to this action, the Chamber's budget is now facing an \$8,000 shortfall.

Early in the town's budget process for 2015-16, a poll of the council by Mayor Tim Taylor indicated the donation would continue. There had been no previous indication that the donation would be denied and the Chamber had built its budget anticipating half of the donation in July 2015 and the other half in January 2016.

By a motion made by Councilman Donald LeVine marking the funds as a line item for Mayfest, the Chamber or any other entity can apply for the funds. The application process has not been defined except for the submission of a Memorandum of Understanding. The council mistakenly thinks they can give Mayfest to another organization but the festival has been a Chamber event for over 30 years. While another organization may obtain the funds for a festival, they will not be able to market it as Mayfest.

Over the years the Chamber Board of Directors have kept membership dues low so that all businesses that want to participate are not burdened by steep membership dues. Every attempt is made in all activities supported by the Chamber to be cognitive of our businesses and their financial situations.

Today the Chamber is launching a Capital Campaign to make up for the budget shortfall in order to be able to continue to support the business community and provide events to promote the entire community. WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP! No contribution is too small, and we need it immediately. Whether a Chamber member or not, local businesses benefit from what the Chamber does to promote the community and bring visitors to the area.

The Board would much rather be able to focus on what the business community needs such as being advocates for the businesses and attracting visitors to the area who spend money in the restaurants, hotels, and other businesses. But today, we are forced to focus on raising funds to continue our mission.

The Chamber has grown in membership and reputation over the past few years. Additionally, new services to the members businesses have been developed and with the disbandment of Hometown Strasburg, the Chamber has agreed to take on a few of their worthy projects to help with business promotion, including the Welcome Bags to new residents.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jay

Jay Winkfield
Vice President

Jackie

Jackie Thompson
Treasurer