

Introduction to the Plaza Arts Center

The Plaza Arts Center – what is it exactly and, more importantly, where is it? For those of you who grew up in Eatonton, it's the old grammar school. If you're not from here, then perhaps you have enjoyed one of our outdoor concerts on the plaza, where

we have a beautiful fountain with benches and an arbor. The Plaza Arts Center is in the building where all the scaffolding and construction dumpsters have been sitting for the past few years. The renovation is

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**PLAZA ARTS
CENTER**

now complete, and in March we opened for business.

Our center was built to be a gathering place for all members of the community – young, old, black, white, city and county residents, affluent and not. It's a place to support businesses and encourage talent, to help service leagues raise money and to supplement all of our schools, public and private. We also house the new chamber of commerce offices, which brings lots of new faces into our building daily.

Our objective is to become the heartbeat of Eatonton by offering theatrical productions, art shows, dances, classes, lectures, movies and more. In fact, we hope you will tell us what you would like to see, and we will do all we can to meet your requests and exceed your expectations. All we ask in return is that you attend these events often and bring a friend along each time.

Several businesses in Eatonton had a major role in making arts center a reality, and it would not have happened without the generous and unwavering support from Farmers and Merchants Bank, The Peoples Bank and *The Eatonton Messenger*. Lots of other folks helped out, too, but this group often went above-and-beyond.

It is significant to note that our two hometown banks are working together to co-sponsor and underwrite much of what we have planned as we get rolling and build our calendar of events. And, the *Messenger* is now bringing you this column on a bi-weekly basis so we can educate and inform you, answer your questions and engage you in this center that was built for all of you.

If you haven't seen the center for yourself, then I invite you to come by and let us show you around. I promise you will be very proud of what Eatonton has done.

(Lydia Ivanditti is director of the Plaza Arts Center and can be reached via e-mail at tpacdirector@bellsouth.net.)