

People are always asking me what was going on at The Plaza the other day/night because they saw a whole lot of cars parked out front. It tickles me to have them ask because sometimes I get the feeling they think they might have missed out on something, but the truth is that the 'big' shows draw all the attention, however, we keep this place busy far more than most people know.

Stop by any Tuesday evening and you will find the Red Wing Old Time Music Show happening in the gallery area right off the lobby. Keith Rowell gathers musicians of all shapes and sizes together to play their instruments just for the pure love of playing. It's a free concert where you can bring a beverage of your choice or call Pronto's to have snacks or dinner delivered. If you ever heard the guys do a little picking over at the General Putnam Motel, then this is for you.

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon the Eatonton Duplicates Bridge Club meets in the reception hall where they intently play their game. I've never understood Bridge because, to me, it is counter-intuitive to the word 'game'. If I have to think that hard to play, it sounds more like work to me, but they love it and most afternoons there's about 30 of them here bidding and trumping and whatever else they do. The winners are usually mentioned in the paper.

Once a month, Eatonton Health and Rehab brings a small group of employees to spend the day in their 'Encounter Excellence' program. They hole up in the art classroom where they decorate everything with an 'island' theme including pink flamingos. I've never sat in on a session but they always seem to be enjoying themselves and, hopefully, growing in their profession.

Lake Oconee Community Church and Reverend Avis Williams host a Bible study at noon on Thursdays, also in the art classroom. It's free of charge and open to all and is designed to enjoy the fellowship of others while being fed spiritually. You can bring your lunch or have one provided by the church volunteers. Either way, they promise to be done by 1:00 so you can get back to work.

Among the many other events that take place around here are Chamber Board and Ambassador meetings, Better Home Town and Habitat for Humanity meetings, anniversary parties and family reunions, church celebrations and weddings. Rarely a day goes by when nothing is scheduled. It definitely keeps me busy and it's not slowing down. In fact, add to your calendar that the Putnam County High School Jazz Band will hold their second annual swing dance in the reception hall on Friday, February 27, which is free and open to the public, and an encore performance of "Bully! An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt" is slated for Saturday, February 28. The show is a fund-raiser for YMCA. Ask anyone who saw the first show back in November and they will tell you to definitely get tickets and come see John Carson work his magic.

If you drove by over the last couple of weekends and saw yellow crime scene tape and huge signs saying "Closed by Order of the Police" (thanks to the great imagination of the Chamber of Commerce girls and their all-out effort for Murder at the Juice Joint) or multiple fire trucks with lights blazing (thanks to the United Methodist Men and the movie 'Fireproof'), don't be confused. We are alive and well around here.

Be sure to check out our website for more details and updates: www.theplazaartscenter.com