

Over the holiday weekend, my husband's children and grandchildren came to visit, and, oh my goodness! By the time they left my floor was a sea of cracker crumbs, Froot Loops and dust bunnies. They were a whirlwind of non-stop energy from the instant they stepped in the door.

In an effort to give them a good sense of life in Eatonton, after getting really familiar with our house, we ventured out for a trip downtown. The pump was primed and they were ready to spend money. They ended up leaving a small contribution to the local economy, but nothing like they would have if we had more to offer. Even the temptation of pizza was not convincing.

Of course, we had the requisite cookout on the deck at Mom and Dad's and while burgers were frying on the grill, I took the adults on a grand tour of The Plaza Arts Center. The fact that they seemed genuinely impressed surprised me the most and I believe their comments were sincere so it caused me to think of how others must see us. Yet, as the weekend ended and we were reflecting on our fun over the past couple of days, they were all quick to say that they thought the town was very "welcoming" (their word, not mine) and they understood why we are so content here.

Now, where is the relevance to you in all of this? Well, we sat for the remainder of the evening and brainstormed about if-you-lived-in-Eatonton-what-would-bring-you-to-The-Plaza-Arts-Center? We came up with some really interesting ideas, the most plausible being a family dinner-and-a-movie night where parents come with their children around 6:00 and, for one low price, you could get a couple of pieces of pizza for everyone, soft drinks (menu can be whatever we want) and fresh popcorn. By 7:00 adults could move into the theater while the screen is brought down in the reception hall and both groups get to watch an age-appropriate movie in a safe environment for a reasonable sum of money. How does that sound to you? I'd love to get your thoughts and ideas on the subject. My quick questions are: 1) Would you attend a function like this? 2) If so, how often? 3) What night of the week would you prefer? 4) How much would you be willing to pay, personally or as a family? 5) How much would you expect for the money you spend, i.e., what would be the value to you? 6) What movies would you like to see? E-mail me at [tpacdirector@bellsouth.net](mailto:tpacdirector@bellsouth.net) with your answers. Seriously.

On a much different note, my most painful 'learning experience' was the comedy and jazz show I booked last year at the end of Dairy Festival Day. It was a terrific concert, however, only about 20 people saw it (and that includes those of us who had to be there). What I failed to take into consideration is that the first Saturday in June can often be a scorcher and, as the temps ran to 105, energy levels were waning. Once inside with air conditioning, no one wanted to venture out again. Trust me, I didn't either. I still believe, however, that basically, people love the idea that Dairy Festival Day is so popular that we had to expand it to include something in the evening. So, we are trying again with "Eatonton's Got Talent" at 7:00 pm on June 6. Fifteen very talented (and brave) individuals will be pouring their hearts into performances where someone will win \$250 for first place and \$150 and \$100 earned for second and third place, respectively. I know their friends and families will show up but I hope you will too. The show will last about an hour and I know the contestants could use your support. Save a few dollars of your day's allotment and plan to end it in the comfort of an air conditioned theater at the end of Dairy Festival Day.

Did I tell you that Dock103.9 is bringing John Berry ("Your Love Amazes Me") here in concert on June 26? Watch for more details.

See you at The Plaza.