



The Bulb Newsletter

February 2009

Volume #104

www.daffodilfestival.net

Greetings and Happy New Year to the Daffodil Family

This has been a very busy festival year already, and we have so much more to come! It all started with the selection of our new Royal Court in October and November. If you haven't had a chance to meet any of our new princesses, you are in for a real treat. These young ladies are definitely going to do some great things this year and on in to the future. Daffodil and Pierce County are fortunate to have these outstanding individuals representing us this year. This is one of the reasons I am proud to be involved with the Daffodil Festival.

First Lady Sherry and I have also had the opportunity to meet the parents of our new Royalty and would like to once again say to them "Welcome to the Daffodil Family". We want to thank them for their commitment in helping make this year a special one for their daughters. Word of advice to all of the parents... Don't forget the extra batteries for the camera!

The calendar is just barely reading January, but it won't be long before we are well into the Daffodil Festival season. Don't be bashful; find out how you can get involved and make this year one you won't soon forget. Call the office, visit the web-site or call me and let us know what you want to help with. It is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Our Director of Funding and Community Relations, Robyn DeLorm, has really been busy and has some great things planned for us this year. She has helped set up some really great and NEW Daffodil events for 2009. Coming up in just a few weeks is our first fund raiser of the year. The Daffodil Festival Valentines Dinner and Dance, with mini-auction, will be held on February 7th. Information and your opportunity to purchase tickets can be found on the award-winning Daffodil Festival web-site, www.daffodilfestival.net We also have our annual Spaghetti Dinner, at Puyallup High School, on February 27th. Our first ever Princess Tea is to be held on March 8th, this event will be held at the Laurel Creek Manor in Sumner. The final event for Daffodil in 2009 is one of the most exciting! On April 24th it is Daffodil Day at The Tacoma Rainiers. The Daffodil family and friends have the opportunity to fill Cheney Stadium with yellow by attending that evening's game against the Salt Lake City Bees. All tickets purchased through the Daffodil Festival will help in funding the Daffodil Festival. Again, you can get more information by visiting the Daffodil Festival web-site, www.daffodilfestival.net. Check out the web and buy your tickets right online!

I hope to see a lot of you out at some or all of these events, or helping get ready for our 2009 Festival. The more you are involved the more fun it becomes.

Have a healthy and prosperous New Year and remember...
Don't forget to take the time to Swing into Spring in 2009.

Brad Stevens
2009 President - Daffodil Festival

WHAT IS A DAFFODILIAN?

What is a Daffodilian? Everyone has their own ideas as to what we do, so let's try to set the record straight. First and foremost, we are all volunteers. We take time, sometimes a lot of time, out of our own busy personal lives and "donate" it to the Daffodil Festival. It's not that we have to; it is because we **want** to. We work on parades, newsletters, web-sites, floats, chaperoning...you get the idea.

We organize a yearly (and year round) Festival, complete with a Royalty program, parade(s), public appearances, and much more. We take young women selected by the area high schools and promote them as our Royalty, as Ambassadors of Good Will, for the area we live in. We honor these young ladies with educational scholarships. We teach them about civic pride, involvement and volunteerism. We appoint area citizens to select a Queen from our Royalty; a leader amongst leaders, if you will. We don't try to direct people or government how to act. We take the pride we feel for our community and try to give back just a little. We try to spread the word of how great of a place Pierce County is to visit and to live in.

We don't ask for personal recognition for what we do. Our reward is in seeing the fine young adults we helped nurture and tutor become the leaders of our next generation. These are the teachers, lawyers, politicians and doctors we are sending out into society to make a positive difference. Our reward is hearing that one of our cities, our towns or communities has been recognized as a national leader in any of a number of civic, educational or philanthropic endeavors. Our reward is knowing that we have been a positive influence, if in just one person's life.

What is a Daffodilian? It is your neighbor, your friend or your relative, in the cool yellow jacket, trying to make a difference in a society that could use it.

2009 Royal Court



Haley Larson - Eatonville



Anna Chow - Henry Foss



Brandy Winters - Graham Kapowsin



Gerianne Perkins - Spanaway Lake



Colleen Phillips - Fife



Myranda Morris - Stadium



Shelby Parkin - Sumner



Jessica Larsen - Curtis



Wendy Taduran - Clover Park



Jin Stedge - Rogers



Kirsten Nee - Franklin Pierce



Danika Wilcoxson - Bonney Lake



Meredith Gallion- Cascade Christian



Abigail Smith - Lincoln



Robyn Olson - Puyallup



Gabriella Tirado - Chief Leschi



Jessica Madden - Mt Tahoma



Lindsey Withers - Orting



Courtney Schumacher - Wilson



Melissa Weiner - Bethel



Saige Jennings - Washington



Melanie Stambaugh - Emerald Ridge



Maili Dellinger - Lakes

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Executive Officers

Brad Stevens	President
Carol Whaley	Secretary
Pam Phipps	Treasurer
Karen Baskett	President - Elect

Dates to Remember

February	7	Valentine Dinner/Dance /Auction
	21	Princess Promenade
	27	Spaghetti Dinner
March	8	Princess Tea
	13	Queen's Coronation
	21	Most Magnificent Mutt Show
	28	Junior Daffodil Parade
April	4	Grand Floral Street Parade
	19	Marine Parade
	24	Rainier's Baseball Game

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF TRADITION

The Daffodil Festival has had a bumpy road this past year. We have had some struggles in getting donations and funding. The economic times we face make it difficult to find the businesses and corporations willing to step forward and help support us. Through this adversity we have had to make some tough decisions to insure the Daffodil Festival would survive. We are surviving, but the future is very uncertain.

The first thing that needs to be understood is that the Daffodil Festival is not just a parade. It is a year round happening. Our Festival year runs from October 1st to September 30th. But, the Daffodil Festival doesn't "just happen"! Every year it costs more than \$200,000.00 to put on the Daffodil Festival. The Daffodil Festival is a non-profit, 501(c)3, organization made up from primarily volunteer members. It only has two paid employees. Most of the budget is spent for operational expenses. Operational costs that include office rent and supplies, insurance for both the parade and owned assets, float construction, the Royalty program and other associated costs. These operational expenses occur all year. We begin the Festival year with Princess Selections in October and November and it progresses from there.

I have had the opportunity to go out in to our different communities and meet some truly concerned and caring people. People that don't want to see the Daffodil Festival and especially the Daffodil Parade go away. It has shown me just how important the Daffodil Festival is to our Pierce County communities. We all have our ways of explaining why we want the Daffodil Festival to survive and why it is special to us, but it seems to always come back to the same reason, the same idea... "**Saving the tradition**". So, I ask why do we want and need to keep this event, this TRADITION, around. What exactly is the definition of the Daffodil tradition and why is it important? Whatever it might be, how do you place a value on something this special and unique? What would you do if it went away? What would you pay to keep it from going away? What would you do or what would you give to get it back?

Many people have different ideas and concepts of what Daffodil, and the Daffodil tradition, means to them. To most it is about the Daffodil Parade. It is the annual trek to the parade route to see all of the bands, floats, cars and, of course, the Princesses. It is a connection, a bridge, from one generation to another. It is the sharing of memories from the past and the creation of new ones. To others it is the idea of having their community come together, if just for a day, to share in a common event. It is a gathering of people throughout our community that knows no ethnic, political, religious or generational differences, or boundaries. For some it isn't about just the parade, but it is about volunteering and serving their community. Making a difference. To others it may be a combination of these or something very different and personal all together.

All of the numbers to keep the Daffodil Festival alive seem so large. But if you break them down to smaller and more basic figures, it would be so easy to keep Daffodil strong and viable for many more years to come. Every year over 50,000 people brave the elements (including the sun) to watch the Daffodil Parade. What does it cost for a family of four to go out and watch a movie together? What does it cost to go to the zoo? Where else can you find this type of wholesome family entertainment? Where else can the whole family enjoy a trip out of the house and all agree where they want to go? Where else can you get two hours of continuous entertainment for FREE? What if every family that came to the parade donated just \$5.00 to \$10.00? The money from these small donations could create enough income to run the Daffodil Festival for another year. Add in business and corporate donations and sponsorships, even at the smallest of levels, and you now have a financial stability.



Save the date: February 27, 2009

Meet the 2009 Daffodil Festival Royal Court and enjoy a great Spaghetti Dinner prepared by the Daffodilians, this is your opportunity to learn more about the Daffodil Festival and enjoy a great meal. Dinner will be served between 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Puyallup High School Commons, the menu for the evening will be

Spaghetti, and we will have sauce with or without meat, Green salad with dressing, **WARM** Cookies, punch and coffee all for the low price of \$7.00.

Come out and support the Daffodil Festival and its 76 years of traditions in Pierce County.