

The Milroy Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is planning a huge celebration on Saturday, August 22, 2009. The event is to commemorate the town's accomplishments as it prepares itself to be a vital community for the 21st Century. They have a brand new main street (State Road 244) as well as new sidewalks, curbs, and streetlights. The lights were part of the construction project, but were actually made a reality through the efforts of the MEDC and a transportation enhancement grant. The MEDC has accepted the responsibility of maintaining all of the street lights in this small community.

Another fine project that will benefit Milroy is the fact that they have a fiber optic cable that was buried along Main Street during the construction phase. This is going to allow full high-speed internet access of commercial business in this community to the rest of the world. The fiber optic component of this project is on-going. The MEDC plans to release more information at a later date. The MEDC feels that Milroy has the capability to be the "Triangle Park" or "Silicone Valley of the Midwest". This is going to be a huge plus as Milroy and the surrounding economic development corporations try to encourage high-tech businesses to locate in rural Southeastern Indiana.

Another reason for the day of celebration is the construction of the new elementary school that is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010. It was the thought of the committee to tie all of these events into one celebration, making it a huge celebration. To tie the school, street, and fiber optic cable together, all the pieces will fit.

The celebration will have a major emphasis on the school and its historical significance to the community. There will be no access to the new school; however, a tour of the old school is planned. People who have graduated from Milroy High School, Jr. High, or Elementary are invited to participate in the parade and this special day. Contact is being made with every class that has graduated from 1931 to the present. We are encouraging each class to attend the event and have a chance to tour the school one last time that was constructed in 1913. Former staff will also be contacted to participate. The committee will be announcing the oldest living graduates and honoring those people by providing a special float in the parade. The King and Queen of the parade will be the oldest man and woman that have graduated from the Milroy School.

The MEDC has also contacted a group of vendors to set up booths and join in this celebration. If you or anyone you know may be interested in setting up a booth, please contact Dr. Bob Jackman or Sandy Gwinnup. The list of events for the day is as follows:

9:30AM, line up for parade begins

11AM, Parade east to west down Main Street

11AM - ?, vendors will be set up around the school parking lot, playground

1-4PM, school tours will be available

1-4PM "kiddie" games will be available at no charge, including rock climbing, dunk tank, pick up duck, etc. There will also be some contests such as watermelon seed spitting, basketball shoot, pie eating, pie throwing.

4-5:30PM, we have planned a guitar hero contest with 2-63" big screen TV's set up. There is a \$5 entry fee for this contest and will be open to all Rush County students.

5:30-8PM there will be free entertainment around the school parking lot.

The MEDC is encouraging local families to have yard sales and businesses to have promotional specials. Various raffles will be held, a 50/50 drawing, as well as a Silent Auction of school memorabilia including uniforms, trophies, etc.

Plans for this event are on-going, but the committee thinks it is going to be a great time to reflect on the accomplishments of Milroy. We hope this will also set the tone to move to the new school next year and promote the economic development capabilities of the high speed fiber optic cable. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is going to be a huge day on August 22, 2009. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the co-chairman Dr. Bob Jackman at 765-629-2752 or Sandy Gwinnup at 765-629-2047.