

WJ Centennial Planning Underway

Written by Gary Childers

West Jefferson's Aldermen were updated by Gene Hafer, director of planning, about the town's Centennial celebration in 2015. Aldermen Stephen Shoemaker expressed his excitement and support for the actions being taken that will bring notoriety—and hopefully tourist dollars—to West Jefferson. Along with information about Centennial planning the Aldermen received good news in the form of an audit report containing a letter of “clear opinion” from CPA Priscilla Norris, about the financial standing of the town following her firm's annual audit. Additionally a request was presented by Keith Woodie, a representative of West Jefferson's Business Association, for approval of a second Annual Antiques' Fair to be held in down town on September 28th. The request called for closing Main Street to automobile traffic from 5:00 pm Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. The Aldermen weighed the pros and cons of such an event. Last year's fair brought approximately 7000 people into West Jefferson which resulted in vigorous sales for a majority of the merchants however, some merchants reported that due to traffic being limited and vendors setting up in front of their stores they lost revenue. With a commitment from Mr. Woodie to minimize as much as possible any negative impact on town merchants the Aldermen unanimously approved the request.