**BLYTHEWOOD OKTOBERFEST VOLKSMARCH**

**Concept:**

**VOLKSMARCH** is a tradition began in the Alpine countries of Europe (primarily in Germany) wherein groups of participants plan organized non-competitve walks on paths or designated trails of various lengths with designated start/stop points.

Participants contribute an entry fee ($10.00) for the event.

In most cases the walk will culminate at a community landmark for recognition of the participants is presented in the form of a badge or medal (of nominal value) for their completion of the event.

**When:**

**October 17, 2020,** to be incorporated into **Oktoberfest 2020** as an added preliminary event.

**Purpose:**

Provide an up close opportunity for participants to visit local Historical venues and interact with local shop / business owners encompassing the Town Center District of Blythewood.

We encourage local shops and businesses to offer a token coupon (cup of water) to participants and participate via providing a “stamp/sticker” on cards provided to the participants.

We believe this provides an opportunity for participants to have a greater awareness and knowledge of our local businesses and facilities that they drive past on a daily basis for local participants as well as an introduction to these for visiting participants.

**Implementation:**

We have mapped out a 6-7 km route to begin and end at Doko Meadows Park Amphitheater stage to encompass:

Park trail to Blythewood Town Hall

Eastbound on Langford Road then turn north on to Sandfield Road and re-connect with the park trail to Doko Manor exiting the park on to Mclean Road westbound to turn south on to Wilson Blvd. (Main Street).

Continuing on Main Street then turn west on to McNulty Street to Blythewood Road (by McDonalds) then west on Blythewood Road crossing I-77 to encompass a loop through the Food Lion / Blythewood Village shopping area.

Return across I-77 to make a loop through Creech Road and back east on Blythewood Road then looping through the IGA shopping area to return east on Blythewood Road then north on Main Street and turning east on to Langford Road.

Take one more loop through Allstate/Upscale complex then crossing back into Doko Meadows Park and ending at the amphitheater stage for presentation of a badge or medal for their completion of the event.

We provide for law enforcement security for roads and crossing points along the route.

We propose to present an additional prize(s) to participants collecting the greatest number of “stamp/sticker” entries on their cards.

We view this added feature provides as a method of your Chamber providing a service that will prove to be mutually beneficial to both the participants and businesses not only possibly on the day of the event but also on a residual basis.