

Don't Be Afraid ... To Float!

Be part of one of Duxbury's oldest and most cherished traditions, the Fourth of July parade. An all-time favorite, the parade, the float, is becoming extinct with fewer and fewer entries each year. It wasn't that long ago that the floats were numerous and attracted great excitement with participation from many neighborhoods and businesses, created a healthy competition and neighborhood rivalry. Families would work together with their neighborhoods to create parade masterpieces destined to forever become a part of Duxbury's heritage. These were the experiences that etched in many of us our most cherished memories of growing up in Duxbury.

Have we all become too busy? Have we forgotten how to work with our own children and neighbors? Take this opportunity to create some really special memories and join in the effort to bring back the parade floats.

Show pride in your neighborhood or group, it's easy....

- 1.** A little competition can be a great motivator, so why not challenge another neighborhood or group in town to "show their stuff",
- 2.** Get together a group, many hands make light work. Young or not so young, everyone can help.
- 3.** Plan ahead and have at least one meeting well in advance. Come up with and sketch a design, remember to stick to the parade theme.
- 4.** Gather your materials. Many of your creative designs will revolve around what you have hanging around in the barn or attic. Check out the dump (transfer station) as many treasures await those who have the vision. Depending on your group or cause you will find many local businesses willing to donate supplies, paint or cardboard. A thank you in the Clipper is always a nice way to bring attention to those generous merchants who do donate.
- 5.** Delegate tasks, some people are more creative than others, so utilize natural strengths, some people like to paint, some like detail and some, basic construction. Let the kids participate, this is a great way for sons and daughters to learn about using hand and power tools (with adult supervision) Insist they wear work clothes and let them get dirty. Finally, remember food and drinks are important, if people get hungry they will lose their motivation. Put someone in charge of refreshments, a cook out or picnic will keep the group together, working and happy.
- 6.** Many local contractors donate transportation for float entries, ask them or call for a list of participants, it's a great way to advertise and show the residents the pride they have for their town.
- 7.** Have Fun! It's a sure bet that win or lose, our children, friends and neighbors will forever remember the experience of working together and proudly displaying their efforts while walking together down Washington Street. This is what memories of growing up in a small town are made of.

Good Luck.... and remember you not only have lots of fun to look forward to, but if you win, you receive \$500 for your cause or neighborhood fund!