

## Mauriceville Heritage Association Summary

Lacking the state and federal funds that support incorporated areas, rural communities like Mauriceville depend primarily on locally raised revenue to support our community organizations. Our Association is dedicated developing strong community connections through our annual festival, and provide the property needed for cultural, academic, athletic and agricultural activities. We also promote positive outcomes for our youth, senior citizens, and families by providing material support to smaller community and family centered organizations. The Mauriceville Heritage Association works to promote the common good and general welfare of the Community of Mauriceville and neighboring areas through locally raised revenue and the provision of property needed for cultural, academic, athletic and agricultural activities; and further positive outcomes for the youth, senior citizens, and families in the Community of Mauriceville and neighboring areas by providing material support to smaller community organizations including our volunteer emergency services organization and family-centered associations, developing strong community connections through our annual Bash and other annual events.

The Mauriceville Heritage Association (previously known as the Mauriceville Crawfish Festival Association) was formed by local residents in the early 80's as an outreach primarily to serve the community as a whole. From those early years, the organization has reorganized into a recognized 501c3, and provided many services each year to the nearly 3500 residences of Mauriceville as well as the unincorporated areas of North Orange County. In an effort to put in place a center for the community's use, the MHA built a community center and pavilion used throughout the year by various groups and religious organizations throughout the community.

The MHA provides land for the Orange County Livestock Association and 4-H, Mauriceville Youth Football and Cheer Association on a \$1.00 per year lease to ensure these organizations will thrive and have room to grow. We have also provided funding for these programs as well as yearly opportunities to raised needed funds at our festival and events with no fees incurred by the groups. We also currently fund the following activities as well as those needed throughout the year upon request: MHA Scholarship Fund (6 Scholarships targeting academics as well as trades), 42nd Annual Senior Citizen Banquet, Mauriceville Community Christmas Lighting, Mauriceville Elementary Memorial Butterfly Garden (one time request), Elementary and Middle school furniture and equipment such as science lab items and instruments for the middle school band, local project Safe Graduation Funds, North Orange County Emergency Preparedness / Supplies, First Baptist Church Mauriceville Youth programs, Mauriceville Purple Santa, Teacher Appreciation Day Luncheon, Mauriceville Youth Associations: Youth Football and Cheer Association, Orange Youth Baseball, Mauriceville Chapters of Boy / Girl Scouts, & Orange County Livestock Association. We also host a 16-week farmer's market to further impact our community free for both the patrons and farmers.

The MHA maintains a community center and an outdoor pavilion which is used free of charge by any nonprofit organization including faith-based nonprofits in North Orange County. The center is also used by the Orange County Extension Agency to provide adult wellness classes to senior citizens. We can provide a list of organizations and contacts if needed.

The MHA works closely with the Orange County Emergency Development office to support activities that will bring about a positive economic impact in our area vital to a small town. We continually support our local economy as well as local vendors, crafters, businesses and farmers by hosting a quarterly market on the grounds free of charge to the public. We also host an annual three-day festival as a way to further invest in our community. The MHA provides needed resources after large scale emergencies as well as a point of distribution of goods and supplies when needed. MHA volunteers and board members worked around the clock for approximately 3 weeks post Harvey to ensure residents had needed food, water, personal hyenine and sanitary supplies, as well as tools and remediation chemicals for cleanup. The MHA also held a benefit, "Hearts for Home" in which we raised funds to work in conjunction with several faith-based groups to begin the purchase of building supplies to remediate residents' homes.

Post Hurricane Harvey, we worked with Mobil Medical Units to provide easy access medical services to our community members. The response was so overwhelming, we are in the process of working with the mobile medical unit to increase the number of visits to our facility. We also set up a network and made available stations for residents to access FEMA, SNAP, WIC, and TWC as well as other health and state services to ensure needs could be met quickly. We also encourage the use of our building by the county extension office to hold senior citizen heath awareness classes.