A Personal Letter to the People of Ripley

From Mayor Richard H. Gobble II

To my fellow Ripley residents,

Every day that I serve as your mayor, I am reminded of something simple but powerful: **Ripley works best when Ripley works together.** Our progress is not the result of one office or one committee it is the result of many hands, many hearts, and many people who care deeply about our hometown.

Today, I want to speak personally about the individuals and organizations who are working collaboratively to strengthen Ripley's development in every direction of economic growth, tourism, downtown revitalization, beautification, community pride, and longterm planning and our civic groups. These groups are not just "boards" or "committees." They are neighbors, friends, and public servants who show up because they believe in Ripley's future.

Ripley Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Ripley CVB plays a crucial role in telling Ripley's story not just to visitors, but to the entire region. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Brenda Mobley**, the CVB has become a driving force behind Ripley's identity as a welcoming, vibrant, and eventcentered community.

Working alongside Brenda are dedicated officers:

- **Suzette Lowe, President**
- **Steve Hambric, Vice President**
- **Larry Chancey, Treasurer**
- **Kelley Adcock, Secretary**

And board members who bring experience, creativity, and commitment: **Dick Waybright, Rick Gobble, Holli Vanater, Peter Coffey, Dallas Skeen, Lauren Kelley, and Cheryl Miller.**

Together, this team works tirelessly to promote our festivals, support local businesses, attract tourism, and highlight the qualities that make Ripley special. Their collaboration with Main Street, the Beautification Committee, and city departments ensures that our events are wellorganized, our visitors feel welcome, and our community spirit shines.

Their work is not just about tourism it is about **building pride**, strengthening our local economy, and making Ripley a place people want to return to again and again.

Ripley Main Street

Our downtown is the heart of Ripley, and Ripley Main Street continues to breathe life into it. Under the leadership of **Director Kelley Spencer Adcock**, Main Street has become a hub of creativity, business support, and community engagement.

The Main Street Board includes:

- **Lisa Nuckles, Chair**
- **Mike Phillips, Vice Chair**
- **Tara Lee, Treasurer**
- **Mitzi Miller Vance, Secretary**

And members who bring energy and vision: **Anne Blizzard, Brenda Mobley, Dwayne Pugh, Tina Benson, Andrew Carpenter, Samantha McConoha Wilkinson, and Theater Manager Lee Blizzard.**

This group works on storefront improvements, business recruitment, downtown events, historic preservation, and longterm revitalization strategies. Their collaboration with the CVB ensures that Ripley's events and attractions are supported by a strong, thriving downtown. Their partnership with the Beautification Committee ensures that Main Street remains visually appealing and welcoming.

Main Street's work is visible in every new business, every improved façade, every community gathering, and every effort to make downtown Ripley a place where families want to spend time. Their dedication is helping shape a downtown that honors our history while embracing new opportunities.

Ripley Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee is one of the most handson groups in our city, and their work touches every resident often in ways people don't even realize. Appointed by City Council, this committee includes: **Linda Dickerson, Teresa Sayre, Chris Landis, Susan Slaven, Joyce Groves, Becky Tucker, and Cheryl Miller.**

These individuals take great pride in Ripley's appearance. They work on landscaping, seasonal decorations, cleanup initiatives, publicspace improvements, and longterm beautification projects. Their efforts make Ripley feel warm, inviting, and cared for.

Whether it's flowers downtown, improvements to public spaces, or the small touches that make a big difference, this committee works closely with Main Street, the CVB, and city departments to ensure that Ripley looks its best not just for visitors, but for the people who call it home.

Their work reflects something deeper: **beautification is not just about plants and paint it is about community pride.**

Ripley Event Committee: Bringing People Together

The Event Committee plays a vital role in planning, coordinating, and supporting the many celebrations, festivals, and community gatherings that Ripley is known for. Their work ensures that events run smoothly, remain familyfriendly, and reflect the spirit of our community.

Whether assisting with logistics, partnering with civic groups, or supporting Main Street and the CVB during major events, this committee helps create the experiences that bring families together and make Ripley feel like home. Their teamwork strengthens every parade, festival, concert, and holiday celebration.

- **Matt Anderson, Chair**
- **Rick Gobble, Vice Chair**
- **Lisa Nuckles, Secretary**

Shara Shamblin, Scott Cunningham, Kasey Johnson, Rena Thompson, Keith King, Brenda Mobley.

A Special Thanks to Our Civic Organizations and Local Businesses

No community thrives on government alone. Ripley's strength comes from the civic organizations, churches, nonprofits, and local businesses that step forward time and time again to host events, support families, and partner with others for the betterment of our city.

From organizations that sponsor youth programs and holiday celebrations, to businesses that donate food, supplies, and volunteer hours, to groups that open their doors for community meetings and gatherings **your contributions matter.**

You help create the events that bring families together. You help support the traditions that define Ripley. You help build the partnerships that move our city forward.

Whether it's a business providing refreshments for a children's event, a civic group organizing a fundraiser, or a local organization partnering with the city to host a festival, these acts of generosity strengthen Ripley's sense of unity and pride.

Your willingness to step up often quietly, without recognition is one of the greatest gifts to our community. On behalf of the City of Ripley, I extend my deepest appreciation.

Working Together for Ripley's Future

What makes Ripley special is not just the work each group does individually, but the way they collaborate. These boards communicate, coordinate, and support one another. They share ideas, solve problems, and combine their strengths to move Ripley forward.

Their teamwork supports:

- Economic development
- Tourism and event growth
- Downtown revitalization
- Beautification and publicspace improvements
- Business support and recruitment
- Community pride and engagement
- Longterm planning for Ripley's future

As mayor, I see firsthand how these groups complement one another. I see how their efforts ripple outward improving quality of life, strengthening our economy, and building a community that feels connected and hopeful.

I want to personally thank every member of these boards for their service, their time, and their belief in Ripley. Their work is not always glamorous, and it is often done quietly, behind the scenes. But it matters. It makes a difference. And it is helping shape a stronger, more vibrant Ripley for generations to come.