Proposal for the Chipley Christmas Village

Pick Your Historical Building to Sponsor

A Celebration of Our History, Our Community & Christmas

September 25, 2026

To: City of Chipley
Re: Proposed Chipley Christmas Village, Annual Use of the Green & 2026 Preview

Dear City Officials,

On behalf of the **Chipley Christmas Festival**, we would like to present a vision that we believe could grow into a meaningful annual Christmas tradition for our community: the **Chipley Christmas Village "Pick Your Historical Building to Sponsor."**

Our vision is to transform the Green surrounding the historic train depot into a Christmas village that celebrates not only the Christmas season, but also the rich history and character of Chipley.

The village would feature approximately **12 small historical buildings**, each representing a piece of Chipley's past. These could include the **Old First National Bank, City Hall, Fire Station, Post Office, School, Jail**, and other businesses and landmarks from Chipley's history, including buildings that have since been demolished.

Local businesses, organizations, families, and community members would have the opportunity to **"Pick Your Historical Building to Sponsor."** Sponsorships would help fund the construction, maintenance, lighting, storage, and continued expansion of the village.

The historical buildings would primarily be positioned around the outer perimeter of the Green, where access to power is available, while preserving the open center of the property. The existing historic buildings, train depot, gazebo, walkways, and overall character of the Green would remain an important part of the village.

The completed vision could include **Santa photos in the gazebo, a Christmas music and entertainment stage, a children's zone with inflatables and activities, a miniature Chipley water tower, Christmas trees, thousands of Christmas lights, a hot cocoa stand, and a small retail building offering bubbles, light-up toys, gifts, and other children's items.**

A decorated white picket fence and Christmas Village entrance would welcome families into the Green and introduce the theme:

CHIPLEY CHRISTMAS VILLAGE
Pick Your Historical Building to Sponsor
A Celebration of Our History

2026 – A Preview of What's to Come

Because our **2026 Chipley Christmas Festival application has already been approved**, we respectfully ask the city to allow us to **add a smaller preview version of the Chipley Christmas Village to our existing approved event application.**

Rather than attempting to complete the entire village this year, we would introduce several elements during the 2026 festival to give the city, potential sponsors, residents, and visitors an opportunity to see the vision firsthand.

This preview would also give our organization the necessary time to secure sponsorships, construct the historical buildings properly, develop storage and installation plans, coordinate electrical needs, and work alongside the city to prepare for a larger launch in 2027.

2027 – A Month of Christmas in Chipley

Beginning in **December 2027**, our goal is to open the **Chipley Christmas Village for the entire month of December**, giving families the opportunity to visit and enjoy the display throughout the Christmas season.

The Village would remain illuminated and available for families to walk through, take photographs, enjoy the historical displays, and experience Christmas in downtown Chipley throughout December.

In addition, we vision hosting **special Christmas Village evenings each Friday in December**, featuring activities such as local vendors, Santa photos, hot cocoa, children's activities, entertainment, music, and other family-friendly Christmas experiences.

This would create multiple opportunities throughout December for residents and visitors to return to downtown Chipley rather than limiting the Christmas experience to a single evening.

Our traditional **Chipley Christmas Festival would absolutely continue each year** as our signature annual Christmas event. The Christmas Village would not replace the festival. Instead, beginning in 2027, it would allow us to expand what we already do into **an entire month of Christmas celebration** for our community.

The annual festival could serve as one of the highlights of the Christmas season, while the Village continues to welcome families before and after the main festival.

A Village That Grows with Chipley

One of the most exciting aspects of this project is that it does not have to be completed all at once.

The Village can **grow year after year.**

Historical buildings could be added as additional sponsors participate. Decorations could become more elaborate. New activities and historical displays could be incorporated. Sponsors could return each year to decorate or enhance their sponsored building.

Each structure could also include historical information, photographs, and stories about the original Chipley building it represents, allowing the Village to become both a Christmas attraction and a celebration of our community's history.

Our hope is that children who visit the Village today will someday bring their own children back to see it.

Request for Annual Use of the Green

We respectfully ask the city to consider allowing the Green to become the annual home of Chipley **Christmas Village during the month of December**, with our organization coordinating the Village displays and Christmas decorations in this area.

This concept could allow the community, businesses, organizations, and sponsors to take an active role in creating and maintaining the Christmas experience while building upon it each year.

Our goal is to create something that cannot simply be found in another town.

We want visitors to immediately know:

This is Chipley.

A Christmas village inspired by our historic buildings, our railroad heritage, our community, and the generations of people who helped build this town.

We envision families walking through a glowing miniature version of historic Chipley, learning about buildings that once stood here, taking pictures with Santa, enjoying hot cocoa, listening to Christmas music, supporting local vendors, and making memories together.

Our Proposed Timeline

2026 — Preview the Vision
Introduce a smaller version during our already-approved Chipley Christmas Festival and begin recruiting sponsors.

2027 — Launch the Village
Open the Chipley Christmas Village for the **entire month of December**, with special events planned each Friday.

2028 & Beyond — Build the Tradition
Continue adding historical buildings, sponsors, displays, entertainment, and Christmas experiences while preserving the historical character of the Green.

We respectfully ask the City to consider allowing us to begin this vision with a smaller preview during the **2026 Chipley Christmas Festival** and to work with us toward establishing the **Chipley Christmas Village as an annual month of December tradition beginning in 2027.**

We appreciate the City's consideration and its continued support of events that bring our residents, businesses, organizations, and families together.

Together, we believe we can create a Christmas tradition that celebrates where Chipley has been while creating something special for the generations who will call Chipley home in the future.

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Sincerely,

Chipley Christmas Festival Board
Chipley, Florida

Enclosure: Concept Rendering Proposed Chipley Christmas Village