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CHS, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, and the Charlotte Community Made 2014 Homecoming a Success



Last week's Charlotte High School homecoming festivities illustrated the great things that can happen when the community comes together to celebrate Oriole Pride. Starting with the downtown decorating contest, which was arranged by the Chamber of Commerce, the week kicked off with over 65 students and staff members painting the windows of Charlotte Business and then gathering afterwards for hotdogs in the Courthouse Museum. Then, throughout the week, community members voted on the block they liked best by donating money to local charities, selected by the different classes. By the end of the week, \$274.50 was raised and split among five local charities and organizations, including the Eaton Area Senior Center, Eaton County Meals on Wheels, the Eaton Siren Shelter, the Eaton County Humane Society, and Charlotte High School's Relay for Life team. Representatives from the charities and joined Charlotte High School principal Bill Barnes in a pre-game ceremony as the Chamber of Commerce representatives Grace Boehmer and Garrett Bensinger presented the donations.

The downtown decorations also served as a backdrop for the homecoming parade, which was moved downtown this year for the first time in recent memory. With help from the Charlotte Police Department, the parade displayed CHS's band, sports, clubs, homecoming court, and brand new Oriole mascot, who finished up the parade perched in the bucket of a Charlotte fire truck. The streets were lined with community members, students, and Oriole fans, bringing a real feeling of community involvement to the entire event.

Finally, the night was finished off with a 42-35 win by the hometown Orioles in front of a capacity home crowd. The band provided an outstanding pregame and half time show, as Miles Garn and Kirsten Andersen were crowned reigning king and queen for 2014. Capping a week of events that also included a student kickball game, tug of war, dress up days, and a pep rally, the community involvement in homecoming 2014 embodied what it truly means to be an Oriole.