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CHS, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, and the Charlotte Community Made 2015 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 staff and students hanging decorations throughout the downtown area, and then gathering afterwards for hotdogs in the Courthouse Museum. 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, \$313 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 joined high school principal Bill Barnes in a pre-game ceremony as the Chamber of Commerce representative Grace Boehmer presented the donations.

The downtown decorations also served as a backdrop for the homecoming parade, which has quickly become an annual tradition. With help from the Charlotte Police Department, the parade displayed CHS's band, sports, clubs, homecoming court, and the 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.

Back at the high school, the Charlotte Education Foundation hosted a tailgate for staff and donors, while the CHS Flight Club, with help from Charlotte Campus Life, hosted a student tailgate, creating opportunities to celebrate all that it means to be Orioles. Unfortunately, the game did not turn out the way the hometown, capacity crowd would have liked, but the band provided an outstanding pre-game and half time show, as Alex Reinbold and Lindsey Carlson were crowned reigning king and queen for 2015. 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 2015 again embodied what it truly means to be an Oriole.