

On Sunday, Bastille Day, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM, I took another stroll through the core downtown Chestertown Business District with pad and pencil in hand. I did the same things on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> and published the results in the hope of starting a conversation. My attempt this week is to try to keep the conversation going and to take a look at what a first time visitor to our town will find on a Sunday in the middle of summer when tourists are touring and visitors are visiting.

**The Survey** - No, it's not scientific and if you compare it with last week's survey some of the numbers have changed. There are no new businesses this week nor did any disappear. That said, the streets were pretty empty so I was better able to concentrate on store fronts. That means that I saw a few second floor signs that I had not seen the first week. I also learned that 4 studio spaces that I thought were empty are, in fact, not empty and had tenants. I also seemed to have found 3 more attorneys in town...who knew?

Because I was now aware of what I will call "private studios," I changed Working Artists/Craftsmen to Public Studios and added private studios.

**The Business Categories:**

- Retail – places like Twigs, The Natural Food Store, Dockside, Pauls, Sultana store, etc.,
- Services – financial, real estate, insurance, (places where you have to have an appointment) Flow is here as is massage therapy and caterers.
- Food – Sam's, Evergrain, Duncan Donut, Washington Tavern (it looked empty to me but I'm told it's still open), Lemon Leaf, Blue Heron, The Imperial Hotel, Old Mill

- Galleries – Carla, Riverarts, etc.
- Public Studios - Hegland, Carving Studio, Schumann/Wilson, Ortiz
- Private Studios – Behind the old Arts League Building
- Attorneys/Newspapers/Political Headquarters
- Empty Store Fronts
- Lodging/Theatre/Historic Society (in my opinion this is not retail – even with a gift shop)
- Drug Stores

### **The Sunday afternoon breakdown:**

<b>Retail</b>	<b>22 Stores</b>	<b>10 closed</b>
<b>Services</b>	<b>35 Stores</b>	<b>30 closed</b>
<b>Food/Restaur.</b>	<b>8 stores</b>	<b>4 closed</b>
<b>Galleries</b>	<b>4 stores</b>	<b>0 closed</b>
<b>Private Artist Studios</b>	<b>4 studios</b>	<b>4 closed</b>
<b>Public Artist Studios</b>	<b>4 studios</b>	<b>4 closed</b>
<b>Lawyers, Newspapers</b>		
<b>Political Parties</b>	<b>19 Store Fronts</b>	<b>17 closed</b>
<b>Empty Stores</b>	<b>10 Stores</b>	<b>10 closed</b>
<b>Lodging, Theatre,</b>		
<b>Historic Society</b>	<b>4 locations</b>	<b>2 closed</b>
<b>Drug Stores</b>	<b>2 stores</b>	<b>2 closed</b>

**A new visitor to Chestertown, walking around the downtown business district would have been able to look into or see 112 stores or store fronts.**

**Of the 112 store fronts, 83 (74%) would have been closed and 29 would have been open to browse, shop or find out more about our town.**

**I intend to take one more survey and perhaps to share some thoughts on what I think I've learned. I hope that you will pass this on to others who might find it thought provoking.**