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Spring into Green, Caterpillar Parade set to roll April 10

Young girls are invited to flock to her Butterfly Court, marching alongside the Caterpillar Queen in the parade, and wearing wings and sashes. “Butterflies” should wear their best butterfly costume, and the first twenty girls to sign up can get free butterfly wings. Register for the Butterfly Court at mainstreetclintonms.com/butterflycourt.

Children are welcome to ride in wagons or strollers or on bikes in the Caterpillar Parade, which also features golf carts decorated by local businesses, organizations, families and clubs. Storefronts, homes, parade spectators and even pets can worm in on the action, too, sporting some kind of caterpillar theme to join the fun. Visit mainstreetclinton.com/golf-cartfloat to register a golf cart for the parade.

“In homogenous suburbanville, we’re always trying to differentiate ourselves. The Caterpillar Parade has been that identifying thing for us,” Lytal says. The idea took flight

first as a way to mark Earth Day and welcome spring. Toni Wall, then-owner of Pentimento Books and on the promotions committee, came up with the idea and, a few years later, was crowned its first Caterpillar Queen.

It started small, but quickly grew into a staple event of the year. Toddlers who rode along early on are now teenagers old enough to volunteer.

The event’s charm spreads as wide as the smiles on kids’ faces.

“What I love is the toddlers on their tricycles or bicycles and they still have the training wheels, and they are pedaling with everything in their heart!” Lytal says. “You know that look, and that is so much fun!”

Chrysalis giveaways at the end of the Spring into Green Market — one per family — give Clintonians the chance to watch their own butterfly hatch and emerge, and then get set free in yet another celebration of spring.



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