

Celebrate our rich history . . . Old Fashioned Day in the Park and Vintage Baseball Games

Written by George Browning
Tuesday, 30 July 2013 00:00 -

The public is invited to attend the “Old Fashioned Day in the Park and Vintage Baseball Games” to celebrate New Albany’s rich history and revisit some favorite childhood memories. The Old Fashioned Day in the Park and Vintage Baseball Games is a FREE and Family Friendly Event and will be held at New Albany’s Binford Park located on Graybrook Lane. The public is encouraged to bring their lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, family and friends to enjoy an old fashioned day in the park while watching vintage baseball games.

Playing baseball in New Albany has always been a part of the city’s history– from the very early days of baseball. When New Albany’s Civil War Soldiers returned home from the war, one of the things they brought home with them was a new game called “Base Ball”. It quickly became the city’s favorite pastime and as early as 1866 there were already at least 4 men’s baseball teams in New Albany. In 1894, New Albany resident, George Jouett Meekin, pitched for the New York Giants and helped them win the Temple Cup – which is now called the World Series. In 1931 Billy Herman started his major league baseball career with the Chicago Cubs and he is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Then in the 1950’s, the BPW Hoosiers, a women’s softball team, came in 4th in the National Softball Tournament.

The Living History Committee wants to spotlight the history of the game of baseball by re-creating games played by some of the earliest rules. Each of the three games that will be played on Saturday, August 10 will be played according to a different set of rules so the spectators can see how the rules of the game of baseball has changed over the years. When baseball first started in 1860, the only equipment used was a bat and ball - baseball gloves had not been invented – so the players caught the ball bare handed. Ladies played baseball in long skirts and long sleeves blouses– making sure not to show any elbows or ankles when batting and running the bases.

Schedule for the Day:

11:00 - Welcome

11:15 to 12:30 Huntington Champion Hill Toppers from Huntington, IN will be playing the Cincinnati Buckeyes using 1862 Baseball rules

12:45 to 2:45 Lady Diamonds Vintage Base Ball Team from Columbus, OH will be playing New Albany’s Ladies Vintage Baseball Team using 1862 Baseball rules

3:00 to 4:15 – Huntington Champion Hill Toppers from Huntington, IN will be playing the Cincinnati Buckeyes using 1869 Baseball rules

4:30 – Closing

New Albany’s Living History Committee and these four Vintage Baseball Teams are sponsoring this Old Fashioned Day in the Park and Vintage Baseball Games as a way to bring New Albany’s rich history to life in a fun, educational and enjoyable fashion

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a FREE AND FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, family and friends to enjoy an old fashioned day in the park while watching vintage baseball games. There will also be a food/soft drink vendor at the park.

For additional information regarding the Old Fashioned Day in the Park and Vintage Baseball Games or any of the other Living History Committee’s Bicentennial Events, contact Barbara Zoller at (502) 510-1907; or Kathy Kessinger at (812) 987-2132; or log onto www.facebook.com/newalbany200 or nalhc1813@gmail.com. For additional information about

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Huntington Champion Hill Toppers or the Cincinnati Buckeyes contact Dennis Wiegmann at (260) 519-2961. For more information about the Lady Diamonds contact Jackie Forquer at (740) 215-1049.

LIVING HISTORY COMMITTEE:

Third annual "Stories Behind the Stones" Historic Fairview Cemetery Tour – Sept. 20, 21, 27 and 28. This is a walking tour through Historic Fairview Cemetery with living history characters who will depict scenes from New Albany's history. Tickets go on sale Monday, August 5th by calling (812) 945-7601. All previous tours have sold out – so reserve your tickets early!

Saturday, Nov. 9 – Historic Governor's Ball – re-creating the 1816 ball held in honor of Indiana's First Governor, Jonathan Jennings. There will be historic clothing, music and dancing! Tickets for on sale Tuesday, October 1st by calling (812) 945-7601.