

by JANNA ROSS

Managing Editor

Green Banner Publications

The Founders Day planning committee is working on the final plans for the upcoming festival. The 12th annual Founders Day will be held Friday and Saturday, June 22 and 23 on the city square in Charlestown. This will be the second year the festival will be held on the square. Chairman of this year's festival, Donna Coomer, said she received many compliments last year after the festival was moved from Greenway Park due to construction in the park.

The theme for this year will be "Small Town...BIG Dreams...BRIGHT FUTURE!"

Many events are being planned to celebrate the theme and community pride. A pork chop dinner and auction was held on May 18 in conjunction with Founders Day. The prince and princess contest was held on June 2, along with a BBQ dinner hosted by Boy Scout Troop 80 and a street dance to celebrate Founders Day.

Founders Day will again bring lots of family fun and a time to make lasting memories. Many popular events will have families anxiously awaiting the fun. Carnival rides will begin on Thursday while the food vendors, arts and crafts booths will begin on Friday. The Louisville Crashers will take the entertainment stage on Friday night and rock out the first night of the festival.

Saturday's highlights include the ever popular parade. This year's Grand Marshal of the Founders Day parade will be horse racing legend retired jockey Pat Day. Day is the all-time leading rider at Churchill Downs and Keeneland. He was born in Colorado but stakes claim to Kentucky as his adopted home state. After a marvelous 32-year career, Day announced his retirement on August 3, 2005. He has rode 8,804 winners including Lil E. Tee, the 1992 Kentucky Derby winner.

"We were able to get Pat Day to agree to be the Grand Marshal. For the last several years, we have tried to get him but his wedding anniversary is the end of June and he was always unable to make it," said Tony Knoebel, the chairman of the Founders Day parade. "We look forward to having him as the Grand Marshal. Since the parade is earlier this year he graciously agreed to be the Grand Marshal. We think it is fantastic he is coming to the parade."

Saturday will include a great entertainment schedule beginning at 2 p.m. and ending with The Monarch's. And of course, the festival will come to a close with the fantastic fireworks display over Greenway Park.

This year the young festival goers will be able to be entertained with awesome video games with Rolling Video Games. The mobile video game theater features vibrating seats, four Sony HD widescreens, four X-Box 360s, four Wii's, two PS3's and a huge library of games and enough room for 16 players.

The following is a schedule of the Founders Day activities:

Thursday, June 14

*Gospel Night & Ice Cream Social beginning at 6 p.m. on the Charlestown City Square. The event is sponsored by Deanna Moore in memory of Bill Moore.

*Food Vendor will open at 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 21

*4 to 10:30 p.m.- Carnival Rides will open. This year the carnival rides will be in Greenway Park.

Friday, June 22

*4 to 10:30 p.m.- Carnival Rides in Greenway Park.

*4 to 9 p.m.- Choo-Choo Train rides for kids on the square.

*5 to 9 p.m.- Arts & Crafts Marketplace open. Booth space is still available for the Arts & Crafts Marketplace. For more information on booth rental please call Tony Jackson at 812-256-7126 or Cathy Mangels at 502-396-9232.

*4 to 11 p.m.- Food Vendors

*5 to 6 p.m.- Tumbletown

*6:30 p.m.- Jenna Daniel performs

*8:15 to 11:30 p.m.- The Louisville Crashers. For more information about The Crashers please visit www.LouisvilleCrashers.com.

Saturday, June 23

*8 a.m.- 5K Walk/Run- Charlestown State Park. For more information regarding the 5K please contact Race Director Dan Roberts at danrobertsr@hotmail.com or Race Administrator Mike Stallings at Pacers & Racers at 812-948-7865.

*9 a.m.- 12th Annual Founders Day Shootout 2-on-2 "Make It, Take It" Basketball Tournament- Greenway Park. The tournament is open to all ages, both male and female. For more information call 502-819-HOOP (4667) or visit www.teamhoops.com.

*10 a.m. to 4 p.m.- Backyard Classics 15th annual Car Show- Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds

*10 a.m. to 9 p.m.- Arts & Crafts Marketplace on the square

*10 a.m.- Food Vendors on square

*10:30 a.m.- Parade down Market Street

*2 p.m.- Hula Hoop contest- Bring your own hula hoop for the contest to be held on the square. Please register at the Founders Day hostess booth 30 minutes before the start of the contest.

*2 p.m.- Bubble Gum Contest- on the square. Please register at the Founders Day hostess booth 30 minutes before the start of the contest.

*2:30 p.m.- Watermelon Eating Contest- on the square. Please register at the Founders Day hostess booth 30 minutes before the start of the contest.

*12 noon to 9 p.m.- Choo Choo Train rides for children on the square.

*2 to 11 p.m.- Live Entertainment

*4 to 10:30 p.m.- Carnival Rides in Greenway Park

*5 p.m.- Old Fashion Cake Walk with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Charlestown Volunteer Fire Department

*7 p.m.- Introduction of Founders Day King Ryan Gorbandt and Queen Haley Crider and Prince Grayson Connell and Princess Aiden Elise Stewart on the stage on the square.

*7:15 p.m.- Hometown Heroes on the stage on the square.

*10 p.m.- Fireworks

Live Entertainment

Schedule

Friday, June 22

*6:30 p.m.- Jenna Daniel

*8:15 to 11:30 p.m.- The Louisville Crashers

Saturday, June 23

*2 to 2:30 p.m.- Paul Boggs Band

*2:30 to 2:50 p.m.- David Broughton

*3 to 3:20 p.m.- Brandi Warren

*3:20 to 3:40 p.m.- Jenna Daniel

*4 to 5 p.m.- Steel Fins

*5 to 6:30 p.m.- Lanny Hatt & the HickBilly's

8 to 11 p.m.- The Monarch's

Sponsorship

This year the committee is offering a new way to advertise the sponsors of the festival. Gold Sponsors of the event will be advertised on a full-motion LED sign that features 2.4 trillion color options. The Gold Sponsors' messages will run continuously the week preceding the festival and two days following the events. The sign will be moved throughout the festival to various events and even pulled through the parade. Gold sponsors also receive a 4'x10' logo banner during the festival and many other benefits for being the primary corporate sponsors of the festival. Gold Level sponsorship comes with a contribution of \$2,000 for the Founders Day festival.

Silver Level Sponsors- Receive a 4'x8' logo banner that will be displayed at the festival. The company will also be announced throughout the festival as a silver level sponsor. The silver level sponsors will also receive other incentives for being a sponsor. Silver Level Sponsors contribute \$1,000 for the event.

Bronze Level Sponsors- Receive a 3'x6' logo banner that will be displayed during Founders Day. The company will also be announced throughout the festival as a Bronze Level Sponsor plus other incentives for sponsorship. Bronze Level Sponsors contribute \$500 for the event.

Other sponsorship opportunities are available including the Team Hoops 2-on-2 Shootout, court sponsors and golf cart sponsors. Host sponsors are also available for the event.

"All proceeds benefit the Charlestown Beautification Committee. The purpose of the committee is to improve the community's pride and spirit through voluntary participation in civic projects that enhance the appearance of Charlestown's public areas and provide family-oriented activities for residents of our community. Our goal is to live in a community we can all be proud of," stated Coomer.

She continued, "There is something for everyone. And we have a projected attendance of over 20,000 people."

You may make a donation to this year's Founders Day festival, "Small Town...BIG Dreams...BRIGHT FUTURE!" Please send your donation to: Charlestown Beautification Committee, 304 Main Cross Street, Charlestown, IN 47111.

Coomer concluded by praising some of the people that have helped make planning this year's festival easier.

"I could not have done this without them. They are here helping everyday. I couldn't have done this without Ted Little, Melda Bratcher or Nancy Rogers."

For more information about the upcoming Founders Day Festival please contact Coomer, Bratcher or Rogers at 812-256-7126 or Little at 812-256-5782.