

Founder's Day promises "Fun, Family and Friends" for this year's celebration

Written by Janna Ross

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Founder's Day has always been a time to bring family and friends together for a great time including live music, carnival rides and games, yummy food and a fantastic parade. This year's celebration will be no different as the theme is "Fun, Family and Friends."

The two-day festival is set for Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27 in Greenway Park on the surrounding areas.

Co-Chairs of this year's Founder's Day is Donna Coomer and Ted Little. The two along with the other Charlestown Beautification Committee (CBC) members promise lots of fun with some new exciting events and a guarantee of the fun from favorite events.

Events leading up to the two-days filled with fun in Greenway Park this year will include a Pork Chop Dinner and Auction, Street Dance, Prince and Princess Pageant and a Balloon Glow and Race.

The Pork Chop Dinner and Auction will be held on Friday, May 29 at 5 p.m. at the Arts and Enrichment Center, located at 999 Water Street in Charlestown. The Chairs of the Dinner are Rhonda Davidson and Donna Coomer while the Chairs of the Auction event are Carmen Eberle and Donna Ennis.

The Street Dance is one of the events being brought back from last year's Bicentennial Celebration. The Street Dance will be hosted by Chuck Ledbetter Sr. and held on Short Street in Charlestown. The dance will be held from 8:30 to 11 p.m. The Co-Chairs of the Street Dance is Chuck Ledbetter Sr. and Charlestown Mayor Bob Hall.

This year unfortunately there will not be a queen pageant, although the CBC members are very excited about the Prince and Princess Pageant.

This year's pageant will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Arts and Enrichment Center. For more information regarding the pageant please contact Chairman Heather Mick at 256-7126.

The Balloon Glow will be held on Friday night, June 19 at Charlestown State Park. A balloon pilots briefing will be held at 8 p.m. with the Balloon Glow set for 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The entrance fee for the state park will be waived for the event. Local boy scouts will help satisfy your cravings with concessions during the balloon glow. The local Kiwanis group will help with the parking for the event. The event will have lights donated by Dan Cristiani and propane by AmeriGas. The Concrete Lady will donate a gift to all balloonists who participate in the event.

Bill and Becky Resch, the Co-Chairs of the Balloon Glow and Balloon Race Event, is pleased to announce an additional fun fundraiser for the event. The CBC is selling raffle tickets for a chance to ride in a balloon during the race. Tickets will be \$1 each and may be purchased from any CBC member, Lions Club member or at Charlestown City Hall. The winner of the balloon ride must be at least 12 years old. For more information regarding the raffle, you may contact Bill Resch at Charlestown City Hall at 256-7126.

The Balloon Race will be held on Saturday, June 20. Another briefing will be held at 6:30 p.m. with the launch window opening at 7 p.m. A dinner and awards ceremony is scheduled at the conclusion of the race at the Arts and Enrichment Center.

The amusement rides will begin on Thursday evening, June 25. The rides will be located in front of Jonathan Jennings Elementary School. The rides and games will be open from 4 to 10:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 12 noon to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. The Chairman of the ride committee is Ted Little.

And if that was not enough to keep you busy, then the Founder's Day activities will begin on Friday night, June 26.

Charlestown Mayor Bob Hall will open the event with a welcome at 6 p.m. and the posting of

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the colors ceremony will be held by the Charlestown VFW and American Legion Color Guard along with a local boy scout troop.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the church bells will ring at 5:55 p.m. The ringing of the bells will be in honor and memory of Haskel Milton, a World War II Veteran who was a member of the Color Guard.

Saturday will also be a day filled with fun. The ever popular 3-on-3 basketball tournament will begin on Saturday morning. This year the tournament will be held in Greenway Park at the basketball courts. The Chairman of this event is Gary Darby. Also on Saturday the Backyard Classics Car Club will host a car show on the square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Founder's Day 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday morning at 7 a.m. at Charlestown State Park. The Chairman of this event is Larry Lynn.

One of the biggest and most anticipated events of the annual Founder's Day celebration is the annual Founder's Day parade. This year the Chairs of the event are Tony and Paula Knoebel and Chuck and Christi Ledbetter. The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. from the Charlestown High School parking lot and will continue down Park Street to Market Street before ending at Greenway Park.

The CBC has added some new children's contests to be held on Saturday. This year there will be a 3-legged race, watermelon eating contest and watermelon seed-spitting contest. The newer contests will be added to the popular hula hoop contest and the stickhorse race.

Another new feature for this year's event is a Cake Walk. Other events being planned will be Charlestown Gospel Night and an Ice Cream Social. The Ice Cream Social Chairs will be Barbara Krenke and Bill and Deanna Moore.

Visitors to Greenway Park will begin staking out the perfect spot for the spectacular fireworks display early on Saturday evening as the fireworks as set to begin at 10 p.m.

The entertainment of the celebration is still pending. The entertainment will be live music and local singers making the audience rock to music of all genres including country, pop, classic, rock and promises to be fun for all ages as in years past. Entertainment Chairs will be Rick Jackson and J.P. Heal.

A fun new event that will encourage more vendors this year will be the Bargain Market. The Chair of this event will be Tony Jackson. He will also will look over the arts and crafts and food vendors.

The Bargain Market will be an opportunity for citizens to come and set up a booth of flea market items for both days of the Founder's Day celebration. A special price for the inaugural event will be \$25 for a 10x10 booth space. Those participating in the Bargain Market will be able to leave their booth up overnight because of the security presence in Greenway Park during the overnight hours. There will be no guns or weapons allowed to be sold. Some items that may be sold include tools, books, new clothing items, watt-knots and jewelry.

Also on hand during the event will be the Indiana Appraisal Association to give free appraisals of your keep sakes including antiques, glassware, depression glass, etc.

The celebration will also still include the food vendors, arts and crafts and a souvenir booth. The Chairs of the souvenirs will be Dixie Busby and Donna Ennis. The host booth will be chaired by Pat Little, Dixie Busby and Judy Lynn. Vendor Support will be chaired by Diane and Roy Whisman and Mitch Newland while the Logistics will be Bob Hall and the Charlestown Police Department. Other volunteers for the event will be members of the CBC.

A shuttle service will again be offered to get citizens to all the fun and excitement that is Founder's Day. The pick-up points will be announced at a later date. Handicap parking will also

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be available.

Shuttles will be available for the Balloon Glow and during Founder's Day from Greenway Park to the amusement rides in front of Jonathan Jennings Elementary School.

Coomer and Little, along with members of the CBC are still looking for sponsors for this year's "Fun, Family and Friends" celebration of Founder's Day.

According to Coomer, there are many options for sponsorship including Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors, a Golf Cart Sponsor, 3-on-3 Court Sponsors or Special Event Sponsors. Local business owners may also want to buy a spot in the Founder's Day special edition insert that will be distributed to approximately 13,000 homes.

For more information regarding sponsorships of the 2009 Founder's Day celebration please contact Donna Coomer at 256-7126 or Ted Little at 502-396-0603.