Founders Day

Annual festival planned May 17

By LORI WINCE
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

Founders Day, the annual celebration of the 1837 founding of New Albany, will be held Saturday, May 17, at the 2-5 elementary building.

The celebration begins at 11 a.m. with a parade that starts at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 Dublin-Granville Road, and concludes at the 2-5 elementary building, 87 N. High St.

Once the parade concludes, the festivities continue from noon to 5 p.m. in the 2-5 gymnasium and on the building grounds.

The parade grand marshal will be Eileen Leuby, who served president of the New Albany Chamber of Commerce from its founding in 1997 to August 2013, when she took a job as membership coordinator for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

Leuby said it would be an honor to ride in the parade that she often helped line up as a Founders Day volunteer.

The New Albany Chamber of Commerce will receive the Founders Day Community Connections award this year in recognition of the service it provides to the community, Founders Day organizer Beckie Knore said.

"The chamber exists to make the community a better place to live and we accomplish this through promoting professional connections in a positive business environment, plus we offer educational programs and community events," said Courtney Orr, the chamber's executive director. "This award signifies our vital role in the overall effort to maintain a high quality of life in New Albany."

Both Leuby and chamber officials were recognized May 6 by New Albany City Council and both will have bricks with their names printed on them installed at the Ealy House at 6359 Dublin-Granville Road.

The Ealy House is a mid-19th-century home restored by the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society.

It will be open for tours from 2 to 4 p.m. during the Founders Day celebration.

Knore said the annual celebration will include food from local vendors and a new ride.

"We've got a lot of food trucks coming this year, which is new," Knore said.

Other staples of the celebration, such as shaved ice and chicken sandwiches prepared by the Franklin Church in New Albany, also will be available.

The new ride will be a 200-foot zip line that will be set up near the elementary annex building on High Street.

Residents who want to go indoors can visit the Ethel Schleppi Art Show, featuring the work of elementary students, in the 2-5 gymnasium.

Several historical exhibits also will be on display.

The New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society will display the heritage quilt that features many of the area's historic buildings and memorabilia used by Dr. Alexander Doran, who practiced in the area during World War I.

Society president Marilyn Regrut also will display her vintage button collection and society member Marilyn Saveson will demonstrate rug braiding.

The Johnstown Historical Society and Harlem Township Historical Society also will have displays.

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