

PRESS RELEASE--HERMANN

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HERMANN 175TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE WEEKEND

The Waterloo German Band, Deutschmeister Brass Band, and Loehnig Family German Band will be part of the entertainment in Hermann, Missouri August 26-28 as the community celebrates the 175th anniversary of its founding.

Special events will highlight Hermann's heritage and include entertainment with German bands, dance and choral groups, heritage tours, special exhibits and programs, activities for children, and plenty of German food. This will kick off the formal observance of the 175th anniversary that will run through December of 2012.

Activities are being planned throughout town on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with special programs at: Deutschheim State Historic Site, the Museum at the German School, Gasconade County Archives, the Upper City Park Rotunda, Stone Hill Winery, Hermannhof Winery, and other places. Most musical entertainment will be at the Clara Messmer Amphitheater in Downtown Hermann.

Hermann was founded on August 27, 1836, when the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia chartered the colony of Hermann in the "Far West," for the express purpose of preserving the German language and culture. Although the first settlers did not arrive until December of 1837, previous anniversary observances have been based on the founding date.

The goal of Hermann's 175th anniversary is to increase awareness of its citizens and visitors alike about the city's German heritage and develop activities and programs to enhance that heritage as Hermann moves toward its Bicentennial.

All of the entertainment and events are free.

Many of the restaurants in Hermann are adding German specialties to their menus and all of the town's shops, galleries, wineries, and historic sites will be open.

Scheduled activities will begin Friday evening with a free concert at the amphitheater from 7-10 p.m. featuring the Bluff-Tones.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday Lois Puchta will do a presentation at the Showboat Theater, "Streets of Hermann—Yesteryear," that highlights many of the buildings in Hermann from an architectural and historical perspective.

A food, wine and beer tent will be open at the amphitheater from 2-10 p.m. on Saturday and from 2-9 p.m. Sunday. Music will start at 4 p.m. on Saturday and will include the the Schuhplattler Verein Blautalers from Kansas City at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m., the Deutsche Maenner Chor at 4:30 p.m. and the Deutschmeister Brass Band from St. Louis, starting at 5 p.m. and going until 10:00.

On Sunday, the Loehnig Family Band from Hermann will start the entertainment at 3:30 p.m. and will be joined by the Wurstjaegers and Junior Wursthaegers at 5 p.m. At 6:30, the

legendary Waterloo German Band will take the stage, followed by another performance from the Loehning's at 8:00 to bring the weekend events to a close.

Other activities are planned throughout town on Saturday and Sunday.

The Gasconade Historical Society Archives and Records Center, celebrating its 10th anniversary, will be displaying the original 1837 parchment document from George and Catherine Bayer conveying their 11,000-plus acres to the German Settlement Society. This rare document will be displayed from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Deutschheim State Historic Site will have special exhibits on the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia; on the Pommer Family, among the original settlers and whose home is part of the site; maps showing the comparisons between early Hermann and Philadelphia; and a registry of the original 678 shareowners with an opportunity for Hermann descendants to sign in and be recognized. Guided tours of the Pommer Gentner House and the Strehly House/Winery will be conducted at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Saturday in the Upper City Park Rotunda, Barry Bierwirth will discuss his rare collection of hand-cranked music boxes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He will have two dozen of the boxes, which provided the first music in homes that did not require playing an instrument.

Dave Ludig, a local artist, will provide a fascinating talk on the history of the German Schutzen Targets at 11 a.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Ludig will do his presentation at the Kunstlerhaus Gallery on 1st Street, where he has a studio.

The Tin Mill Brewing Company, one of the few German style microbreweries in the country, will have guided tours on Saturday at 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30. The brewery will be open throughout the weekend and tours are \$2.

Stone Hill Winery, Missouri's oldest winery, has guided tours starting every 30 minutes of its ancient arched cellars and state of the art production facilities. The tour offers a history of the role Hermann and Stone Hill played in developing not only Missouri's wine industry but the nation's as well. Tours are \$2.50.

Hermannhof Winery, located Downtown, is in one of 100 historic buildings placed on the National Register in Hermann by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Several of its unique and historic wine cellars, still used today, will be open for free, self-guided tours.

Old-fashioned German-Style Games for Children will be on the lawn of the Museum at the German School from 10:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday and at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the amphitheater.

Three self-guided walking tours, focused on Riverfront, City Park, and George Bayer are available. Free maps can be picked up at the Welcome Center and museums.

For a complete list of events and the complete schedule, go to www.VisitHermann.com, or call the Hermann Welcome Center, 312 Market Street, at 800-932-8687. Additional activities will be added.

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