

CITY OF HERMANN: For Immediate Release

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HERMANN MAIFEST: GERMAN CELEBRATION OF SPRING MAY 20-22

One of Missouri's oldest German festivals is approaching as the City of Hermann presents Maifest 2011—a genuine German celebration of spring—on May 20-22.

This year's edition of Maifest will offer plenty of German music and food, beer and wines, bands and entertainment, historic tours, craft vendors, artisans demonstrating their crafts, a parade and carnival, and many activities for children, as the City of Hermann celebrates the 175th anniversary of its founding.

Activities will take place throughout town, including the downtown historic district, Hermann Farm and Museum, City Park, and at wineries in and around Hermann. Special activities and tours are also planned at the Deutschheim State Historic Site, the Museum at the German School, and the recently renovated 1868 White House Hotel, where tour guides dressed in period costume will share the building's colorful history.

The Schiller Street Volksplatz, featuring vendors and artisans, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. More than 40 vendor booths are expected, offering a variety of food and quality merchandise.

There will be a Kinder King and Queen contest at noon on Saturday behind the German School and old-time kids games at 2 p.m. in the school yard.

The White House Hotel will have lantern tours at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Self-guided tours will be available throughout the day, giving visitors an opportunity to walk around the hotel and interact with actors in period costume portraying their jobs as if it were 1886.

Deutschheim State Historic Site, Missouri's official German Heritage site, will conduct tours at two houses at 10 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. each day. The tour includes display of a Crazy Quilt in the Strehly House that incorporates ribbons and history related to Maifest celebrations from 1890 to the 1920s.

The Museum at the German School, which has a huge collection of items related to Hermann's history and Missouri's German Heritage, will be open for tours each day, with activities for children in the schoolyard.

The Hermann Forge on Gutenberg Street will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday with blacksmiths at work.

There will be plenty of music throughout town during Maifest, including:

- Live music at the Upper City Park provided by the Hermann Jaycees Friday and Saturday
- German music at Hermannhof Winery, Saturday and Sunday
- The Loehnig German Band at Stone Hill Winery, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.
- The Wurstjaeger dancers at Stone Hill Winery
- Live music at the Bier Garten in Sesquicentennial Park, downtown at 3rd and Gutenberg

- The St. Louis Czech Express at Tin Mill Brewery, Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.
- Badlands at OakGlenn Winery, Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.
- The Bluff-tones at the Bank Bar on Schiller Street, Saturday night
- Live music at Simons on Wharf Street, Friday and Saturday night

A reception at the Gasconade County Courthouse honoring this year's parade grand marshals, Calvin and Caroll Scheidegger, will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. The Scheideggers have provided strong leadership in the Hermann community for many years as business owners and active leaders in many organizations.

At 12:30 p.m. on Sunday there will be a re-enactment of the firing of the Little Cannon on the courthouse lawn, commemorating a Civil War skirmish in Hermann. The annual parade through town follows at 1 p.m., with a theme related to Hermann's 175th anniversary.

On Friday, Hermann will celebrate its annual Homecoming, sponsored by the Jaycees. There will be carnival rides from 6-10 p.m. and a beer garden with music in the Upper City Park. Those activities continue on Saturday, with the carnival open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and a beer garden with live music.

Throughout the weekend Hermann's many unique shops, galleries and restaurants will be open.

Additional information about Maifest, lodging, and other events is available by calling 800-932-8687 or at www.VisitHermann.com. Visitors can stop by the Hermann Welcome Center at 312 Market Street for further information.

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