

News Release: RezyFest Committee Announces Schedule

James Duncan founded Massillon 181 years ago on December 7, 1826. This year's community birthday celebration and winter festival, RezyFest, will be held on **Friday, December 7, and Saturday, December 8, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.** The free party is located in Massillon's Reservoir Park on Hankins Road, just east of the intersection of Wales Road (Ohio Route 241). RezyFest is presented by a volunteer committee in collaboration with Massillon Parks and Recreation Department.

Throughout the Event

Visitors will find **storytelling in the cozy RezyFest Igloo**, which has been refurbished by the Mutchler family. The Affinity Medical Center **Games Tent Midway** and the Massillon Rotary **Winter Olympic Ring² outdoor games** will amuse children with 25-cent games...and a prize every play. Youngsters can try a variety of **crafts** for just a quarter each. The **Tuslaw Lions Train**, which will operate both days, can take adults as well as children for a ride beside the park. Annual favorites **P.J. and Miguel Chavez** will entertain with their music and animal balloons (find them at a bonfire near the Old Carolina Barbecue and Catering Company Old Carolina Barbecue and Catering Company **food** concession. LeRoy Schumacher's **carousel organ** will entertain visitors as they arrive or wait for the bus...weather permitting

Blacksmith Bill Warner of Navarre will also demonstrate his craft throughout RezyFest and will offer his work for sale.

Chainsaw wood carvers Tim Hall and Matt Massey will be busy at work throughout both days. Their work will be for sale and they will provide four large sculptures to be auctioned at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday to help defray RezyFest costs. They will provide one sculpture for the grand prize for the RezyFest raffle, to be announced at 8:45 on Saturday night.

The 2004 Olympic **gold medalist ice carver, Aaron Costic** will carve an Arctic family on Friday night; visitors will be able to poke their faces through their parkas for fun family photographs. The Huntington Bank **ice carving competition** will take place on Saturday until the awards are presented at 8:45. Costic has earned dozens of other national and international ice carving awards. Few of his creations are more impressive than his **Fire and Ice² sculpture**, which he will carve on Saturday night and ignite at 7:00 p.m.

Historic local videos and photographs and a Massillon history match game will highlight A Better Home Health Care's **Massillon History Tent**. Reinhardt Ausmus (portrayed by Eric Myers), Shorty Roan (Chris Craft), and Melville Schworm (John Kiste) will describe their Massillon history adventures periodically between 5:30 and 7:30. The **Massillon's Transportation Pioneers² monologues**, written by Margy Vogt, are supported by Arts in Stark. At 8:00 each evening, local historian Rudy Turkal will present a fun and factual Massillon history slide show inside the heated tent.

As soon as it's dark, the park will come alive with thousands of **lights**, sponsored by The Health Plan/HomeTown Regional Office), Bob Evans of Massillon, Aultman, Heitger Funeral Service, Hendricks Vacuum Forming, Inc., WES Sound and Systems, Northeast Business Interiors, The Independent, Canton Chair Rental, Legends Care Center, Kendall House<KFC, WRL Advertising, Canton/Stark County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Brown & Percival LPA/Mercury Title Agency, A.A. Hammersmith Insurance, Downtown Massillon Association, Cameo Grill, Gary Totten, Ron and Jane Sibila, and Massillon Automobile Club.

Scheduled Events

Imagine the center of the event glowing with the flame from the **Don Pancho's hot air balloon** as the event opens on Friday! Visitors can watch Maury and Lynn Sullivan inflate their balloon at about 5:00...weather permitting. They will tether it until about 6:30, when visitors can watch the process of taking down the balloon.

Mayor Francis H. Cicchinelli has been chosen as Friday's dignitary to serve **free birthday cake** and retiring Massillon Municipal Court Judge Richard T. Kettler will be the dignitary doing the honors on Saturday evening. The birthday cake, courtesy of Mel Herncane, will be served on both evenings at 6:15.

Gene Boerner will emcee the slate of entertainment on the stage. Friday evening's stage show, the **Average White Broads**, will bring back the 1950s with their doo-wop harmonies and favorite ³oldies² from 7:00 to 9:00. On Saturday, the Washington High School show choir, the **Washingtonians**, will take the stage at 6:00, followed by The Average White Broads for the rest of the evening.

Admission to Massillon's birthday party is free. Free parking will be available on nearby streets, Smith School parking lot, and in the park lots south of the reservoir. **SARTA** will run a continuous regular-fare shuttle from the northeast corner of the Massillon Recreation Center parking lot on North Erie Street, where free parking is available.

Visitors can warm their hands by a fire barrel at the bus stop while they wait to return to their cars.

Dan Bates, Harold Leone, Jane Wickerham, Rudy Turkal, and Margy Vogt co-chair the event in collaboration with the Massillon Parks and Recreation Department. Diana Parker, John Sukosd, Gary Totten, Cullen Pfendler, Jim Jobe, Dick Corban, Paul Mutchler, and Kevin Welch have constructed the event and installed the displays with the assistance of Tom Goodrich, Jon Roseman, Jim Smith, Dave Smith, Al Rogers, and John Meyer. Dozens of volunteers assist during the event. For more information, call Margy Vogt at 330-832-8469.

Media Contact: Margy Vogt (330-832-8469 or 330-844-1525)