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Old-fashioned fun, food on tap as Wellington marks 150 years

WELLINGTON—The organizing committee for Wellington's sesquicentennial is looking to the past and the future during this weekend's 150th anniversary celebration.

Activities are scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday at Barry Voyles Memorial Park.

Saturday's events include historic memorabilia in the park, an historic tractor display on Main St. by the railroad tracks, and a bounce house and kids' games. From 4-7 p.m., the Wellington-Greer Fire Department will have a fundraising fish fry at the fire station.

Sunday activities begin with a Community Church Service from 9-10 a.m., hosted by Wellington United Methodist Church and Prairie Green Church of Christ, followed by live music from 10-11 a.m. Historic memorabilia will be on display from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with a cookout and ice cream social, featuring Andi Mae's ice cream, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The bounce house and kids' games will be available from noon-2 p.m. and a kiddie pedal tractor pull rounds out the schedule, starting at 1 p.m.

Chip Houmes started piquing interest in a sesquicentennial celebration in January, noting on the Wellington Lions Club Facebook page that this was the year the village turned 150 and posting pictures from the 1972 centennial celebration.

The Lions Club and churches have been the driving force behind sesquicentennial activities. Houmes and Dustin Wells, pastor of Prairie Green Church of Christ, have been front and center of planning and getting the word out.

Houmes was initially concerned that there would be

little interest in marking the town's 150th year, but felt "we couldn't let it go by without doing something." An organizational meeting drew 12 volunteers.

While the number may seem small, anyone who has tried to organize a group knows getting a dozen people to step up, especially in a town the size of Wellington, is significant.

Along with Lions Club members and representatives of the churches, village Trustee Jane Powell is representing Wellington Town Council as a volunteer. Others are representing a long line of family involvement in the town.

One of those is Beth Totheroh, who "jumped in with both feet," Houmes said. Totheroh used her organizational skills to keep things in order and took on the task of ordering t-shirts and insulated cups as souvenirs of the event.

To raise money for expenses, organizers wanted to find sponsors to be listed on the back of the shirts, but most of the town's businesses closed over the years. Family members of those former business owners came forward to purchase sponsorships for Barney Jeffers Garage, Lockhart Sales & Service, and Gillins Oil Co., which had been owned by Totheroh's dad, Gary. While not in Wellington, new sponsors were also found, including Paul's Towing and Layden Farms.

When the event is over and all the bills paid, funds from the souvenirs and other sources will be split between the Lions Club and Wellington-Greer Fire Department.

The group had originally looked at holding the event in July or August, but when they learned the Wellington-



Wellington Sesquicentennial Logo

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Wellington continued from other side

Greer Fire Department was holding one of their fish fries in June, they decided to move the date up. "It's another thing that draws people to town," Houmes said.

No sesquicentennial would be complete without a logo, and Wellington's is no exception. Houmes approached Kevin Root, Hoopeton Area High School graphic design teacher, about having his class come up with designs. Several were submitted and the one chosen pays homage to the former Wellington High School mascot, the Dukers.

It may seem that the sesquicentennial is all about the past, but that's not true, at least not for Houmes.

In recent years, Wellington has lost residents, going from 242 to 207 between 2010 and 2020. The town

Court Dispositions

May 11

Judith M. Gagnon, Hoopeton, appeared for general nuisance. She did comply, paid \$80 court costs in full; case closed.

Mihail S. Mihalios, Chicago, failed to appear at status hearing for nuisance structure; new status hearing June 8.

has had had some new residents move in, who, Houmes hopes, will meet and get involved with "people who have lived here forever," instilling a sense of community going into the future.

Just recently, Houmes said, he was driving in Wellington past the house with a lot of town history. As he drove, he saw the new owner and stopped to chat. The men talked about the history of the house and Houmes brought up the sesquicentennial and invited the owner - who had not heard about the celebration - to bring his son to the park for the kids' activities.

In fact, Houmes hopes residents new and old will come together this weekend, enjoy the goings-on and maybe make some new friends.

The party hasn't even started and it's already helping the Lions Club, Houmes said. Because of the group's efforts, its membership has grown.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 77. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 67. Tomorrow, showers likely. High 72, low 54..

For real time Hoopeton weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Houmes, who often travels for work, is staying close to home this week to do whatever needs to be done for a successful celebration. This weekend, he'll be wherever he's needed, whether doling out scoops of ice cream (vanilla, butter pecan or chocolate) or cooking hotdogs at the cookout or talking about Wellington's history with visitors.

There are many unknowns about the celebration:

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeton is accepting applications for a full-time water department employee.

Requirements:

- Valid Driver's License
- Class B CDL with airbrake endorsement or ability to obtain one
- High School diploma or equivalent
- A positive attitude and willingness to learn
- Strong work ethic

Punctuality and attendance is important for this position. There is opportunity for advancement with the proper training and certification Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeton.com/employment

CITY OF HOOPESTON

Chief of Police

The City of Hoopeton is seeking candidates to fill the position of Chief of Police. Hoopeton is a community of 4,915 residents located at the junction of Illinois highways 1 and 9, approximately 100 miles south of Chicago. For more information about Hoopeton, visit our website at www.cityofhoopeton.com.

The City currently has 8 full time officers and is in the process of hiring 1 to 2 more full time officers.

Qualified candidates will have:

- 10 plus years of experience in municipal law enforcement
- Ability to lead coach, and train staff in a focused and effective manner
- Community oriented and able to maintain positive relationships with residents, schools, and the business community
- A degree in criminal justice or related field is desired
- Equivalent training or experience will be considered
- Excellent interpersonal/communication skills are essential

The City of Hoopeton is an EOE, offering a comprehensive wage and benefit package with a starting salary range of \$65,000 to \$70,000.

Candidates may submit a confidential reply to the City of Hoopeton; Administration Office, 301 W Main St. Hoopeton, IL 60942 or online to hoopetoncityjobs@cityofhoopeton.com Submissions should include resume and cover letter.

First review of candidates will occur by Friday, June 17th, 2022

how many people will come, how many tractors will show up by noon Saturday to be displayed during the event, will the sunny weather forecast suddenly turn to rain. But for Houmes, it doesn't matter. "We're going to have a good time no matter how many show up," he said.

For more information on the event, Houmes can be reached at (217) 260-6943.

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The Frederick Community Bank in Cissna Park is in need of a Customer Account Representative. Applicant must have skills interacting with customers, ability to handle various transactions accurately, and be part of a team environment. The position available may be part-time or full-time. If you are interested, please mail your resume to The Frederick Community Bank, PO Box 36, Cissna Park, IL 60924, or pick up an application from the receptionist in Cissna Park.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st St. in Hoopeton or call us at 855-692-7824.

Seeking a bartender for weekdays and nights. Possibly a weekend day. Our hours are from 7a-7p. Must have a Bassett and Food handlers Cert within 30 days. Stop by Hubbard Trail Country Club or call 217-748-6521.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeton Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities Applications available onsite. EOE

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