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LITTLE MOUNTAIN HERITAGE FESTIVAL ADDS “FESTIVAL AFTER DARK” FOR 2009

Painesville, OH

A beautiful July evening, twinkling lights in the trees, a 12-piece swing band in the event barn and the off the wall fun rock group Fat City, under the trees at the Heritage Stage. There's a beer and wine bar featuring the trendiest new wine drink and Festival food vendors open until 10pm. It's kick-back, sip down and enjoy a great night on the grounds of the beautiful Lake County History Center, 415 Riverside Drive in Painesville Township. *Festival After Dark* begins at 7pm and closes at 10pm and has a \$5 cover charge. Combo tickets will be available for the first time this year for either the Festival and Festival After Dark or a two-day festival pass, either for \$10. Adult admission to the Little Mountain Heritage Festival is \$6. The Festival is held July 25 and 26 with Festival After Dark on July 25 only.

Celebrating 24 years, and the second time at the new home of the Lake County Historical Society, the Little Mountain Heritage Festival is one of Lake County's most beloved festivals. It's held on a beautiful site with plenty of shade, celebrates Ohio's culture in music, fine crafts and food, features a Lake County Cultural Village, Family Frontier Village and hosts an historic RamRod Encampment. The Festival is the only Lake County festival named as a National Legacy Event by the Library of Congress due to its authentic presentation. The Festival is unique, easy going, family focused and affordable. Adult admission is \$6, seniors and teens are \$5, kids twelve and under, LCHS members and parking are Free.

A full weekend music schedule is available on the Society's website at www.LakeHistory.org, but a sneak peak reveals music as different as polka and 50's rock, Jewish Klezmer and Brazilian samba. There is traditional folk, blue grass and country, with four headliners bringing their national reputations. **Steve Free**, named in 2008 as Ohio's finest Individual Performer by the Governor's panel, returns with his music reflecting both his Native American ancestry, his love of nature and the need for environmental conscience. **Yiddishe Cup** and **Elixir** are two very different sounds, but both celebrated by the Ohio Arts Council as being "Ohio Treasures" for the quality of their music. Yiddishe Cup is a foot stomping, ear grinning, joy. A hugely popular group, Yiddish brings a nearly extinct music form to Lake County, Jewish folk music that was brewed throughout Eastern Europe prior to WWII. Nearly wiped out by the Holocaust, Jewish Klezmer musicians became an extremely rare breed. This group is preserving the music and the fun of this unique sound. Elixir has just plain fun with its audience. The trio takes music from the 1800s, but mixes it with the sound and tempo of contemporary or iconic groups as divergent as the Doors and The Beach Boys. **Ward and Bence**, National dulcimer champions, bring a quality of playing not often seen in N.E. Ohio. Taking the hammered dulcimer to new heights, this duo presents

music most of the audience will have never heard in their lives. Five stages will be in continuous operation as well as the “Shade Tree Musician” area. Following folk festival traditions of the Western Reserve, musicians with traditional instruments are admitted free to the festival and given a place to gather and jam. The music continues each day from opening until 6pm. On Sunday, at 5pm, musicians from the various stages are brought together for a finale show and closing of the Festival.

Food is often the attraction for summer festivals and Little Mountain has some of the best. New for 2009 will be a vegetarian vendor brought in by guest requests. However, long time favorites like the “Smokers” whose smoked turkey, beef and ham have filled visitors since the Festival opened in 1985. Also back for 2009 is Bob Bair and his famous Festival Irish Nachos. Created for Little Mountain, this decadent pile of French fries comes covered in traditional nacho toppings. The LCHS Volunteer Booth will feature hot dogs, hamburgers, and the usual sandwiches including peanut butter & jelly for the kids. New in 2009 will be the ribs and chicken wings man and a vegetarian chef with quesadillas, humus, garlic mushrooms and portabella mushroom sandwiches. Also available will be all the required Festival fare from elephant ears to corn dogs and frozen treats.

Kids are special guests at the Festival, admitted free of charge if they are twelve and under. Families will have ample opportunities to spend time together exploring the past in the **RamRod Encampment** where costumed volunteers create the life style of those who ventured into the Ohio wilderness through the Civil War. The re-enactors welcome guests into their campsites and are delighted to explain to small visitors exactly how they built furniture, created clothing and cook their meals. Debuting in 2008 to resounding success was the Frontier Family Village. The village has been expanded for 2009, and children will have even more opportunity to learn to dress and live as pioneers, play checkers or marbles with grandpa, shop the general store or challenge mom to a game of jacks. The Family Village is sponsored by the LCHS Youth Education Department under the direction of Carrie Plummer and also features the Frontier Stage with entertainment especially chosen to engage children and adults alike.

Festival admission also includes a **visit into the museum** where the Lake County Historical Society has created new galleries focused on the Story of the Lake County Home and Celebration of the Bicentennial Bell. Also open will be the parlors, which recreate the look of a Lake County home in the late 1870s and the Music Box Gallery where visitors will have the opportunity to listen to authentic turn of the century music boxes measuring from inches to feet. The museum will also host tours of the work completed in the building and the newly located Tymes Past Gift Shop.

Festival Hours are 10am-6pm on Saturday and 11am-6pm on Sunday, however, guests purchasing the **Festival After Dark** ticket will be able to stay until 10pm on Saturday night. New for 2009, Festival After Dark will give visitors and opportunity to experience the beautiful grounds of the Lake County History Center in a truly unique way. While the craft vendors and music stages shut down, the food vendors and bar heat up. For the first time, the Festival will host an evening wine and beer bar presenting the new frozen Frappe wine drink and favorite beverages. The food vendors will be open and the event barn turns from admission area to dance floor as the 12-piece **Emperors of Swing** take over the night bringing those fabulous songs and rhythms back once again. For those Baby Boomers, LCHS presents **Fat City**, a group of local guys and a gal who fell in love with rock n’ roll during the Beatles era and have been singing ever since. Featured on the Heritage Stage under the trees, Fat City has entertained at the Rock Hall and throughout N.E. Ohio and is just the band to enjoy with a crew of friends and a cold beverage on a summer night.

For all the details, visit www.LakeHistory or call 440-639-2945. The Little Mountain Heritage Festival isn’t just another summer festival, it is the best of summer festivals for residents and visitors alike.