



A cause to celebrate

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BICENTENNIAL GETS UNDERWAY WITH FOUNDER'S DAY

Delaware, Ohio—The joint bicentennial celebration of Delaware County and the City of Delaware will kick off 200 years to the day that the county was established by state legislation. Founder's Day is planned Sunday, Feb. 10 from 1-4 pm at the Delaware County Career Center North, 1610 state Route 521.

The free event will feature children's activities like a balloon artist and face painting. There will also be re-enactors dressed as Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, Rutherford B. Hayes and General William S. Rosecrans; a visit from Delaware's oldest resident, Opal McAllister; birthday cake; and music from groups like the Delaware Community Chorus, the Civil War Singers, the Hayes Singers and the Hayes Players.

For a \$50 donation to the Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial Park in Sunbury, those attending can shave a portion of State Representative Jon Peterson's trademark facial hair. Peterson will have his beard shaved as part of a bicentennial beard growing contest, which starts during Founder's Day. Other clean-shaven contestants are encouraged to register on Feb. 10; beards will be measured on July 5 during Community Day, a City of Delaware bicentennial event.

In keeping with the historical spirit of the afternoon, proclamations from the county's 20 townships, which designate 2008 as the bicentennial year within those townships, are to be presented in a special ceremony using the same desk the Delaware County Auditor used in 1808.

Participants will also get to learn about bicentennial events scheduled throughout 2008. Minnelli Days will highlight the movies and nostalgia of Oscar-winning director – and Delaware native – Vincente Minnelli. A re-enactment of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show will feature over 90 horsemen and women demonstrating roping and trick riding. For a complete list of bicentennial activities, visit www.delawareco200.com.

Founder's Day is sponsored by Cakes by Kay and Lori, the Delaware County Career Center North, the Mean Bean Caffeine Lounge, Pepsi and Posh Events.