

Albia's 'Restoration Days' gets expanded and re-imagined

Posted: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 11:56 am

ALBIA — The Albia Chamber of Commerce and RELCO Locomotives, Inc. are re-imagining their former summer Restoration Days festival. The new "Restoration Days in Albia's Victorian Wonderland" will be held on Sat. Aug. 6 in and around Albia's picturesque square. This newly expanded festival has been carefully designed to bring a new and exciting family-centric experience to the people of southeast Iowa.

Art, Entertainment, Food and Family Activities in One Summer Celebration. The entire day has been packed with 25 different activities that create unique 'attractions.' The activities will be held throughout the day based on the 'Alice in Wonderland' theme.

Arts and Artists. The traditional quilt show will showcase finely handcrafted quilt art. In a special tent venue, the festival will now feature an art show where artists will display their everything from oil paintings to crafts and sculptures. Throughout the day, some of the artists will host children and adult art workshops to provide an informative and fun instruction time for families. The community will also be invited to help build Albia's first ever "mural of the masses" as a way to preserve our pride and spirit for generations to come.

Food and Gourmet. In addition to the objects d'art from local quilters, crafters, painters, and sculptors, the festival will feature edible art. Albia's restaurateurs will be serving fare ranging from burgers to specialty pizza to locally crafted beers. A wide range of goodies will be presented from scrumptious cupcakes to handmade cheeses to fresh fruit preserves.

Entertainment. The traditional parade will take place in the morning with a procession of the Queen of Heart's royal court. The festival will end with a blowout Queen's ball in the evening with live music and dancing. Throughout the festival various bands, roving entertainers, magic shows, and a continuous Mad Hatter Tea Party will entertain the crowds. The follies, a mainstay of Restoration Days, will start on Thursday and continue throughout the festival. A human chess game and a royal croquet match will take



Restoration Days

Courier file photo. Dave Paxton performs at a previous Restoration Days Follies.

place, perfect for all members of the family to take part in.

Family Activities. The day will kick-off with a revamped version of the 5k walk/run race with a Wonderland twist. The winner does not have to be fast, just clever. The Wonderland Treasure Cache will culminate on festival day with a Wonderland prize to those who find the most caches.

Nod to the Past, Eye on the Future. This new and expanded festival is a nod to the town fathers who started Restoration Days and the hugely popular Christmas themed Victorian Stroll. It is also a tribute to Albia's renaissance as a rural community. One of the primary goals of this festival is to nurture and encourage continued community growth as well as foster additional pride in Albia's community and Iowa culture. Another goal is to bring the community together to enjoy family-oriented fun.

Volunteer Spirit. This festival is developed by Albia's creative and dedicated community-minded volunteers. Albia Chamber of Commerce and RELCO Locomotives, Inc wants to thank Maryanne Anderson, Doug Bachman, Phyllis Boyer, Kim George, Richard Grimes, Morgan Henderson, Don Krieger, Gail Maddy, Tammie Maddy, Dave Paxton, Laura Teno, Heather Thompson, Charlie Vandepol, and Tom Woodward for their diligence and dedication to bring this festival to fruition.

For more information on the festival contact Albia's Chamber of Commerce at 641- 932-5108.

— Megan Berberich can be reached at mberberich@ottumwacourier.com and followed [@CourierMegan](#).