

New look to Restoration Days

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The Albia Chamber of Commerce and RELCO Locomotives, Inc. along with the Albia Restoration Days Committee will present a reimagined Restoration Days festival entitled “Restoration Days in Albia’s Victorian Wonderland” to be held Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 4-6 2016 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 spectacular celebration. The entire day has been packed with 25 different activities that create unique ‘attractions’ summarized below. The activities will be held throughout the day and will be 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 from all over will display their masterpieces. From oil paintings to crafts and sculptures, the talent of our best artists will be sure to delight. Throughout the day, some of these artists will host children and adult art workshops to provide not only informative instruction, but also a fun way for families to enjoy time together. 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 objets 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. The festival is proud to present some of the area’s most interesting food gourmets offering a wide range of goodies from scrumptious cupcakes to handmade cheeses to fresh fruit preserves.



Sonny Williams

THE REAL BEGINNINGS of Restoration Days happened in 1965 when a group led by Sonny Williams (pictured above) started Operation Facelift. Following the placement of 92 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and the city’s quasiquintennial in 1984, Restoration Days was born as an annual celebration. It has had a number of leaders, celebration dates and themes and in 2016 it will get another “face lift.”

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 Restoraton Days Follies, a mainstay of Restoration Days, will start on Thursday and continue through the festival. There will even be a human chess game and a royal croquet match that is sure to be fun for the whole family to watch and cheer on.

See more of this news story in the Thursday, January 14th Union Republican.