

Dogwood Festival scheduled

PIKETON — On the last weekend of April for the past five years, the village of Piketon, platted 162 years ago, casts off its air of a quiet rural hamlet and assumes the cloak of a weekend metropolis.

The transformation is brought on by the annual Dogwood Festival which attracts more than 20,000 persons during the two and a half days of events, featuring pioneer crafts and activities. The focal point of demonstrations and exhibits is "The Old Village of Piketon," a National Register designated historic district.

Exhibit areas in the Activity Center (former Opera House), United Methodist Church, Johnson-Craice House, Piketon-Seal Township Fire House and Red Barn will be augmented by on-street shelters. Among the crafts slated for this year are corn husk, apple, dough, walnut and hickory dolls, chair caning and quilting; wood-carving, acrylic and oil paintings; funnelcakes, bread baking, herbs and old-fashioned plantings; weaving, ice cream making, shoe cobbling, silversmithing, potters, bicentennial clothing, macrame, stained glass, doll collections, ceramics, stone carving and sculpting; jewelry making, spinning, cider making in an old-time press, apple butter making, saw filing and soap making.

The grand finale of events is the 1 p.m. Sunday parade through the streets of Piketon, the first Pike County seat. Joe Holbrook, of WBNS-TV, Columbus, will be parade grand marshal in recognition of his hometown of Wakefield, Ohio, in southern Pike County.

Also featured in the parade will be a procession of antique automobiles, area bands, drill teams, floats and mounted entries, all portraying the bicentennial theme.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, at the Activity Center on the Old Village Square, Mayor Al Williamson will present the annual symbolic dogwood sapling to the community of Wakefield. Charles Noel Jr. will accept for the Wakefield residents and the tree will be planted in the community.

Music has traditionally played an important role in the pioneer festival. The Piketon High School Chorus will be heard in concert at 8 p.m. Friday in the high school auditorium and the Dogwood Festival Honors Band, composed of selected tri-state area high school musicians, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at the high school.

Bluegrass, country and mountain music making individuals and groups have been scheduled Saturday and Sunday on two stages which will be placed at vantage points; one on Middle Street and the second on Market Street.

The Bicentennial Community Concert Band, directed by William Tetrick of Waverly will present a special outdoor concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday from the Market Street stage. The group of about 40 musicians hail from primarily Pike and Ross counties.

Also on hand, as in previous years, will be the Adelphi Community Band, the oldest civic-oriented band of the state. The band is directed by R.W. Connett of Piketon but is composed mainly of residents of the Adelphi-Hallsville-Laurelville-Kingston areas.

The Pike-Ettes Drill Unit from Piketon will stage a fire routine at 7:45 p.m. Friday, and will sponsor a contest during the parade. The competition will be divided into three divisions: marching unit, marching corps and drill unit with first and second ribbons to be awarded in each division. On the basis of total points, an overall winner for the combined divisions will receive a trophy.

The judging will be done during the parade which forms at 12:30 p.m. near the Piketon High School. Awards will be made from the reviewing stand following the parade.

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Sat, Mar 23, 2019