

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik,
lisodesatnik@fuse.net

Public Contact: 1-866-WEST-FEST (1-866-937-8337)
www.oldwestfestival.com
www.twitter.com/oldwestfestival



1870's Dodge City Comes To Life In Region's Only Old West Festival

Spectacular scenes like those of John Wayne and James Stewart movies will be retold in live action this fall as the Old West Festival rolls back into town at its permanent site just 15 minutes from I-275, east of Cincinnati. The second annual Old West Festival – running weekends September 12 to October 11 – will transform rambling acreage of beautiful country into an authentic Dodge City Wild West town dating back to 1878.

Visitors will step back in history to a time when famous lawmen like Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp reigned, when peddlers of snake oil arrived by carriage drawing crowds to their pitches with fancy entertainment and saloon girls where lifting their skirts, kicking it up in a wild free for all. Gamblers such as Doc Holiday played faro and Boothill was a place you didn't want to be at the end of the night.

Those who venture into the old west country should be warned, calm can turn into dramatic frenzy when outlaws mix with cowboys, and words become fracas. By popular demand, one of the highlights from last year's Festival will be returning four times daily – the jaw dropping gun right re-enactments of the Big Irons Rangers. When the smoke settles and calm returns to the historic town, the Rangers will demonstrate trick shooting. In between shows, they and other period interpreters including the Cancan girls will be walking the grounds to meet visitors.

Live On Stage

Non-stop entertainment will be performed from four different stages throughout each day of the Festival. Visitors can relive American history through traditional folk songs and original ballads, request old time favorites and even sing along to sounds of the 1800s with the period groups Changing Tymes and Gun Powder Creek on the *Chisholm Trail Stage*. Some of the region's most popular country and bluegrass musicians will take to the *Dodge House Stage*. Among them will CMA recording artist – the Dan Varner Band, Rabbit Hash String Band, Wild Carrot and the Roots Band, Shane Hultz, Comet Blue Grass All Stars, Kentucky Myle, Raison D'Etire, and impersonator Tim Musser who was the crowned winner of the 2008 Miami Valley's Got Talent contest.

After some good old eatin' in the Beatty and Kelly Restaurant, folks are encouraged to stay awhile, laugh and ponder the unknown with the Professor Faris Magic Show. On stage in the Longbranch Saloon will be the high stepping, crowd pleasing Madam Gigi's Outrageous French Cancan Dancers. Also at the Festival will be melodrama shows of tales between villains and

mistresses, good guys and bad; and true-to-life medicine shows except these peddlers won't be selling real snake oil.

Entertainment For The Whole Family

Beginning at 10:15 a.m. daily when youngin's can get sworn in as town deputies, a day at the Old West Festival is wholesome fun for families. It doesn't stop with old timey puppet shows, magic shows, storytelling and sing-a-longs. Kids can participate in historic games, pan for gold, ride horses or ponies, cross the frontier in a steam locomotive or covered wagon, and more. At 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each afternoon, they can learn about the life as a cowhand through demonstrations and hands-on activities including trying their hand at roping a steer.

There is much more. The Southern Ohio Square Dancing Federation will offer demonstrations and teachings every Saturday. The fun and dynamic duo known as the Ragamuffins will perform family-style sing-a-longs with unusual instruments. And world champion juggler and cowboy entertainer David Cain will be on hand many days showing off his lassoing, juggling, comedic, and whip cracking talents. There will even be a cowboy church Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

(Please visit www.oldwestfestival.com for a complete schedule of dates and times.)

Other Festival Attractions

Visitors will have a lot to see and do in between shows and activities. Venturing out into the prairie, the pioneer encampment will feature period re-enactors demonstrating mountain life from the 1800s. In town, behind the historically accurate store fronts will be a pool and dance hall, a western clothing store, vintage photo emporium, an old fashioned candy store, and western-themed souvenirs. Beer, sarsaparilla and other refreshments will be served in the Long Branch Saloon, Wright and Beverly's Restaurant, and around town.

Down Home Grub

A veritable feast of some of the best grub on this here side of the west will be served at the Festival including grilled and juicy longhorn burgers, pulled pork and range chicken sandwiches, mouth watering turkey legs, fried to perfection vegetable and golden nuggets, trail fruit candy apples, biscuits and gravy, Cimarron fish and chips, Bat's taste tempting brisket, and Miss Annie's apple pie.

Festival times and hours are Saturdays and Sundays running September 12 to October 11 from 10 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Festival is located at 1449 Greenbush Cobb Rd between Mt. Orab and Williamsburg, Ohio just off St. Rt. 32. For more information, please visit www.oldwestfestival.com or call 1-866-WEST-FES (1-866-937-8337). Old West Festival is also on Twitter and Facebook.

Cost is \$10 general admission; \$6 for children ages 6 to 12; and children under 5 are free. Parking is FREE.

#