

Oct. 1, 2008

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History will come alive on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The City of Burleson's parks and recreation department and the Burleson Heritage Foundation (BHF) will join forces for the 16th annual Founders Day celebration from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Old Town.

Mock gunfights, historic self-guided walking tours and great food are on tap for the celebration that will take place between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Ellison Street, between Main Street and Johnson Avenue. More than 80 vendors are expected to line the streets of Old Town.

The gunfighters will return to not only stage mock gunfights in the street but also to jail and grant bail to the city's worst offenders. New this year will be historic self-guided walking tours through Old Town. Those walks will start at the Heritage Visitors Center at the corner of Ellison and Wilson streets.

Also on tap are plenty of arts and crafts, great food, carnival rides, and musical entertainment. The Mighty Marvelous 4, which headlined this year's City of Burleson Fourth of July Celebration at Hidden Creek Sports Complex, will headline the Founders Day celebration from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Also on stage on Oct. 11 will be dancers, gymnasts, and martial arts.

A second stage will feature worship bands 316, By Faith, In His Hands and the First Baptist Church of Burleson Worship Team as well as the Celebration Choir from First Baptist Church of Burleson and the duo Tiffany McConnell and Danette Woodard.

The Heritage Visitors Center will be open and staffed by volunteers during Founders Day. In addition to the historical displays, several keepsakes, including the original interurban rails, "Burleson: The First 100 Years" book, ornaments, postcards, pencils, and photographs will be for sale. The model building collection crafted by Phil Marsh will also be on display.

Burleson Lions Club members are stepping up again this year to not only serve breakfast, but lunch as well. Breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and will be served until 10:30 a.m., or until they run out of food. Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or until

they run out of food. The club's concession trailer will be set up at the corner of Wilson and Ellison.

Founders Day is celebrated on the second Saturday of October in recognition of the date that Burleson was founded, Oct. 10, 1881. The festival kicked off in 1993. The focus has always been on Old Town, where the city got its roots. The celebration is a joint effort of the City of Burleson's parks and recreation department and the Burleson Heritage Foundation.

For more information about Founders Day festivities, call the parks and recreation department at 817-295-8168. For a booth application, call 817-447-3522 or 817-343-2589 or go online at the City of Burleson web site, www.burlesontx.com, click on "About Burleson" "History of Burleson" and "Founders Day." For more information about this release, call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.