

October 5, 2012

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A little rock, rhythm and blues, funk, and country is coming to Burleson Oct. 13 for the 20th annual Founders Day celebration in Old Town.

Blue Hat is the day's headline act with a 90-minute concert slated to kick off at 4 p.m. on the main City stage. The group once went by the name Texian, but they dropped that in late 2011 and took on the name Blue Hat. The band includes lead vocalist Steph Johnson, Frank Holligan on bass and vocals, Mike Arnett and Chris Ashford on guitar and vocals, John Hotchkiss on drums and vocals and Steve Apollo on keyboard and vocals. The sample play list includes songs by James Brown, the Doobie Brothers, Tom Petty, Adele, Aretha Franklin, Eric Clapton, Led Zeppelin, Foreigner, Van Morrison, Bad Company, Fleetwood Mac, Joan Jett, Tom Petty, Journey, ZZ Top, Stevie Wonder and Gretchen Wilson.

The celebration is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The fun takes place on Ellison Street. Ellison will be closed to through traffic from the intersection with Johnson Avenue to Main Street. Side streets will also be closed at Wilson Street at Renfro Street, Bransom Street at Renfro, Warren Street at Renfro, and Main at Renfro.

The Burleson Heritage Foundation will host an historical costume walk from First Baptist Church (corner of Ellison and Johnson) to the railroad tracks at 10 a.m. That is followed by a "homecoming" for the linotype at the Burleson Visitors Center, 124 W. Ellison St. The linotype was a standard in newspapers for almost 100 years.

There will be mock gunfights, on the hour, starting at 10 a.m. Founders Day features an array of arts and crafts, food, games and a carnival. There are two stages. The main City stage features the Ballet Folklorico Azteca, which kicks off at 9:30 a.m., as well as the Elk Strutters, Stribling Choir, Recreation Center Performers, Country Club Kickers, Studio C Dance, Performers Unlimited, Artistic Motion Dance, Frances Lea Dance Academy, and Tae Kwon Do.

Founders Day is hosted by the City of Burleson and the Burleson Heritage Foundation. Burleson, Texas, was founded on Oct. 10, 1881. Burleson was incorporated in 1912. The first Founders Day festival was in 1993. The City is celebrating the Centennial of its incorporation in 2012. For a Founders Day booth application, call Neal Jones at 817-447-3522 or 817-343-2589. Come on out and enjoy the fun!