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Privy Councilor

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Volume 38 Issue 1

August 16-17, 2008

Opening Weekend ~ A Silk Road: Discover the Riches

Mid-America Festivals

1244 Canterbury Road

Suite 306

Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone: [Redacted]
Fax: [Redacted]
Shop: [Redacted]
Site: [Redacted]
First Aid: [Redacted]
Safety Services: Ext. 101

Site Hours For Show

Outer Gates:

Fri, Sat and Sun locked
@ 10:30 PM

-Exceptions-

Back Gate:

7 am—2pm Monday
With security guard on
duty

Inner Gates:

A and B Gate open
7am—10:30pm

Check In Gate Times
B Gate 6:30am-8:00pm
C Gate 6:30am-1:00pm

Drive-In Gates:

6:30 am to 8:00 am

Pet Fest

Stop by the Premier Fence Special Events Field for the 2nd Annual Pet Fest from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Learn about pet safety, training, products and more from over 75 vendors.

Arabian Horse Show

Join the riders of the Minnesota Half Arabian Horse Association and their beautiful horses during the Arabian Horse Show at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the Joust Track.

Middle Eastern Belly Dance Competition

Come compete in the Minnesota State Belly Dance Competition for your chance to win the title of Minnesota's best belly dancer and gift certificates from Dahlah's Internationale. Adults and children are encouraged to show off their new skill of moving their hips like a gypsy on the Mud Stage at 5 p.m.

Belly Dance Performances

Watch the Middle Eastern Dance show off their moves at the Special Events Pavilion at 12, 1:30, 3:30 and 4:30.

Middle Eastern Music

Let John Khoury's Arabic Ensemble take you to the Middle East through the sounds of music. Performances will be at 10:30, 12:30 and 2:30 at the Special Events Pavilion.

Belly Dance Lessons

Learn to dance like gypsy on the Mud Stage at 10, 12:30 and 2:30! Let John Khoury's Arabic Ensemble help you shed your inhibitions and show what you can do as a belly dancer. Register to compete in our Middle Eastern Belly Dance Competition taking place at 5:00 on the Mud Stage.

Dahlah International

Stock up on the Middle East fashions at the Dahlah tent located next to the Pavilion stage. Purchase all you need to show of your new belly dance moves, including costumes, shoes and more!

Tai Chi Lessons

Come release all your stresses with Who Knew Su Nu Usagi as she demonstrates the art of Tai Chi. Enjoy beginner's lessons on the Sheppard's Green at 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Korean Sword Art

Watch as Twin Cities Gumdo demonstrates the Haidong Gumdo, a Korean sword art on Sheppard's Green at 11 a.m., 1:30 and 4 p.m. The demonstration will include basic techniques, forms, application, cutting demonstrations and audience participation in paper cutting.

Children's Hula Hoop Contest

Young princes and princesses are welcomed to swivel their hips to victory in the Hula Hoop Contest. Test your hula hoop skills at 1:00 at the Children's Realm Stage for the chance to be named the Hula Hoop Champion and win prizes.

Pet Costume Contest

Think your pet has the best Renaissance garb? Bring them dressed in their best renaissance themed costume to the Fetch Delivers booth at 3 p.m. daily to win prizes.

Children's Knighting Ceremony

King Henry welcomes all children to become official Knights of the Realm daily at 3:30 p.m. Please be to the Kings Arbor no later than 3:15 to participate in the Knight Ceremony.

Parade Changed to 11:30am

News from the Craft World

By Devin Kuwitzky

Welcome to the 2008 Minnesota Renaissance Festival. We have been anticipating the arrival of this wonderful event and now it's hard to believe it's finally here.

With a new 15 year lease ahead of us I am looking forward to nothing but a successful season. I hope that all of the crafters can agree with me that this year should be all about having a positive attitude. With a safe and secure lease we should all be ready to move on and to focus on improving the show in any way possible. Any ideas you may have feel free to run by me. If you have any questions or concerns remember you can always reach me during the week at Mid-America Festivals office;

You can also email me at [redacted]. As far as Festival is concerned, I will be there every Saturday and Sunday. You can still leave messages for me at B-Gate each day of the Festival.

Passes: You should have either picked up or received your passes by now. If you sent in your pass and did not receive it back, it expired and you will need to get a new one taken. I have all passes that did not get picked up in a box at B-Gate for you to pick up opening weekend. If you don't have enough orange (no-site access) parking passes, the girls at B-Gate can help you. If you want to make changes to your pass list during the week call or email me by no later than Wednesday. If I need an explanation, I will call you. We do not need to speak directly unless necessary. If you want to make changes during the weekend come see me. What about \$5 worker passes? You will still be able to utilize that, and with the same rules that were already in place. What are those rules? Refer to your Craft Participant handbook for the deadline. What about extra passes? You can still purchase extra passes for \$56 per photo ID and \$53 per Generic. You just have to inform me ahead of time.

I will be selling discounted Renaissance Festival tickets that crafters may purchase. The prices this year are \$14.50 for Adults and \$7.50 for children. You may purchase these from me out at B-gate during festival hours or come and see me at the office during the week.

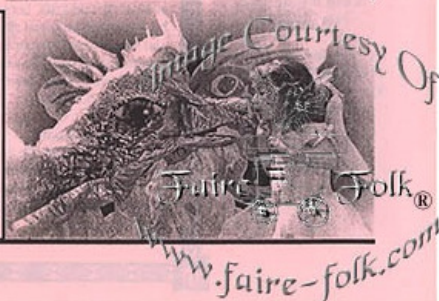
The Craft Liaison program has once again been instituted. This program seemed to work well in the past and I hope it will continue into the future. I do want to thank all the volunteers that help with this program. They will deliver your Privy's on Saturdays and can provide you with forms for questions, comments or concerns.

HALL OF MASTERS CLOSED FOR 2008

The Hall of Masters is not going to be open for the 2008 season due to repairs. We are working hard at getting these repairs made so it will be open and running for the 2009 season. I apologize to the Masters and Artisans who display in the hall. I know that it allows you to showcase your talents and your beautiful artwork. This year you will be showcased by having a special listing in the broadsheet (this gets handed out to the patrons as they enter front gate). The listing will have you listed out with your names and shop numbers. The rest of the Master Program perks will be enforced and of course there will be a Master's Dinner!!

Reminder: \$12.50 owed for Fire Number Signs

There has been a request by the Scott County Fire Department for all craft booths to have a fire number sign posted to their booths. The signs have been made and posted by the Site Crew for uniform reasons. The signs are 4 1/2 X 5 which puts them at eye level. The signs will be posted on your right side of your booths. The payment must be paid in Check form to Mid-America Festivals and given to Devin at B-gate by no later than August 24th. Any questions feel free to ask for Devin at B-Gate or during the week at the office at [redacted]. Thank You!



Welcome!
New Safety Services Director
Bob Kinsman

We are pleased to announce that Bob Kinsman has joined our team as Director of Safety Services.

Bob has over 25 years of federal law enforcement and private security experience and has worked closely with the US Secret Service, US Marshals, ATF, and Federal Protective Services. Bob currently is the Regional Branch Manager for a private security and building maintenance firm responsible for the overall operations for Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Prior positions have included Director of Security Operations, Branch Manager, Training Manager, Recruiter, and Policeman. Bob is an award winning instructor who has provided training to both the public and private sectors. Bob has worked security in large outdoor venues and over the years has been a regular guest at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

Bob has degrees in mathematics, security administration, theater and speech. In addition Bob holds many licenses and certifications in the medical and security arenas and maintains a commercial pilot's license. Bob is involved in many professional and community organizations.

In the near future many of you will have the opportunity to meet Bob and we trust that you will be as impressed as we are.

Greetings from Safety Services!

Welcome back, and we hope you all have a good season. We have a few things we'd like to go over quickly.

Passes

Please make sure you have your pass at all times. Without it, you'll be asked to leave. No one is allowed on site without a pass, no one is allowed through gates without a pass, and no one is allowed after hours without a pass. Please make sure that you and any of your employees have a pass prior to coming to work; those without passes will have to go to B-Gate to obtain them, and will not be allowed to cut through site to get there.

Cars on Site

Cars are not allowed to enter site after 8:00a.m. and all cars must be off site by 8:30 a.m.. This has been the rule for well over 16 years. Please do not plan on showing up at 8:45 and expect to be allowed onsite. Also, please note that, at the discretion of MAF management, cars may not be permitted on site if the ground is wet and muddy. If it rains, please plan accordingly.

Safety Services / First Aid Hours

Safety Services Staff is on duty from 6:00 p.m. Friday evenings until 2:00 a.m. Monday mornings.

First Aid staff is available from about 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If you have a medical emergency during hours that First Aid staff is not available, a member of Safety Services night staff will assist you if possible.

However, Safety Services staff is not under direction from a medical facility and will therefore likely refer you elsewhere for medical attention.

Please refrain from using First Aid as a place to visit and sit and relax.

While the show is open the facility must remain accessible for people needing medical attention. The staff appreciates your visits however they do have a job to do.

Safety Services Phone Number

If you need us and can't find a site walker PLEASE CALL US! The phone number for First Aid and Safety Services Dispatch is [REDACTED]

Fire Extinguishers

J.N. Johnson service will once again be out to recharge, repair and replace fire extinguishers. Please look for him near C-Gate on Saturday, August 23rd from 7am-2:00pm. The cost for services is as follows:

Annual Fire Extinguisher certificates	\$5.00
Recharge, 5, 6 and 10 yr Maintenance	\$20.00
Hydrostatic Testing	\$45.00

He will accept only cash or checks and it must be paid at the time of service. This will be his only scheduled stop for the season, so please make a point to visit if necessary.



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Joe's Shadow

By Carr

The sun will come up on this first festival morning, rising in nearly the exact place it did in 1974, the year I started working at festival. The long morning shadows will cut across the site at much the same angle as they did when Nixon was drowning in Watergate, and Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford were inducted into the Hall Of Fame. There was more grass back then, the buildings all looked hardware store new, and the joust arena was a full race track oval.

The festival experience, for many of us, is as much about the seasons and weather, as it is about a love of medieval history or selling. We feel a connection to this place when we see that morning light pouring in from the east, rolling across the grounds, painting itself upon wood and tree leaf. Our routines are informed by where the light moves, where it sets itself, and where it hangs out during the day. There is a quality of light that plays on all of us, providing a kind of comfort in its rhythms, in its certainty.

The sun has been a constant, a partner to the shadows and those places that no matter how deliberate, it may not enter. The Bakery is a stoic icon of solar isolation, with its dark and moldy interior, just a dank and hollow shell. The Feast Hall may contain a celebration throughout the day, but it is a cold mistress in the morning.

Over the past 35 years I've seen these shadows change, because so many of the buildings are gone and the trees that I climbed as a performer when I was 15, have long since been claimed by the wind and elements. The Chapel, the Gutenberg Press, the Armory and the Blue Lion Tavern, and many more, deceased relatives fallen into wood fires and dust.

Our days, our dances, our shows and schedules intertwine with the light of day, with the shadows that cool and the clear open sky that warms. Our closest companion for these long days are these human shadows that walk with us and stand beside us, tallest in the morning, hidden underneath us when the sun reaches its apex, retiring into the soft whispers of twilight.

But as buildings have fallen and gone, so too have many friends of flesh and blood. Today, on the precipice of another year, I'm thinking about our friend Joe. Like so many buildings and trees that have disappeared and fallen from our midst, he is gone. Joe, who practically grew up here, who set the bar for what nearly every entertainer wanted, to be able to make a successful living doing this work. Joe, who rarely had a bad word to say to anyone. Joe, predictable and certain, a perfect foil for a comedic duo, a blue collar, average working stiff and the kind of guy you wanted to have a beer with, to watch the game with, to just hang out with. Joe, quiet and unassuming, the guy next door...you know...that Joe.

We've lost a friend, and a presence as certain as any building. Of course, the comedy will return to his stage, and the laughter will soothe and celebrate Joe's legacy. But today, I will walk to the ship stage, as many of us will, to have a few quiet moments to consider our missing friend. Mark will be there, doing what he must do to grieve, running the lines that he and Joe knew by heart, coaxing the audience to find the comedic comfort... and returning to normal, one line at a time. So, if you stand for just a little while and consider the empty space next to Mark, where there once was a familiar shadow of the perfect foil, there will be the warm and certain light of day rolling itself across the stage. Damn, I'll miss his voice, but as it has and as it must, and as all players know, the whole, damn, show, must go on.



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PETS

Pets that will be on the festival grounds, in a booth or the campground need to be registered with your department head, and have an application on file. You will need to have a "Pet ID" for your dog, which you will have to carry with you.

Please fill out the pet application and give a copy of your pet's shot records, the \$10 fee and a small photo of your pet to your department head. For those of you that already have a "Pet ID" you still need to fill out an application and bring your current shot records along with the \$10 fee to get your card punched. Scott County wants us to keep track of this information in case of animal bites and it is also MAF policy.

THE RENAISSANCE COLLECTION

Informally, known as "The CAP," its home is in Folkstone. The Renaissance Collection represents exceptional work of Festival artists in all media. In recent years, purchases have been made primarily from the Masters in the Masters Program. The Collection is a historical view of Festival crafts. It is well worth a visit and a chance to meet David Bryce, Curator of the Collection.



PHOTO ID SCHEDULE

We are taking Photo ID's Saturday August 16th and Sunday August 17th from 10am - 2pm at B-Gate. Please make sure that everyone who is associated with your booth, troop, game, food, etc. is on your respective lists.

If they are not on list, they will still be able to have their picture taken, but it will not be printed until it gets verified. Speak with your department head about your list if there is a question.



Stop In!

The Chaska Community Center

All Festival employees who have a Photo ID will be able to use the center for the same rate as a Chaska resident. The center is equipped with a workout area, pool, basketball, volleyball, daycare, skating rink and full-service locker rooms. Call (952) 448-5633 for information & times. Take a break from the routine and check out what they have to offer.

ANNIVERSARIES TO HONOR

Each year the Festival honors participants who are celebrating 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of continuous involvement and dedication to the Festival. You could have started in one area and then moved through several others. Forms are available in the back of the Privy Councilor, Information Booth, or at B-Gate on the first and second weekends. Completed forms should be submitted to B-Gate personnel. **NO** forms will be accepted after Sunday, August 24th. This is firm, as we need ample time to produce certificates and order gifts. Also, do not assume we "know" you have been here for that long. If we don't receive the completed form, we don't know. And it will be another 5 years before you get your next award. So to recap, **NO FORM - NO AWARD**. Remember, the years of participation must be consecutive.

Greetings from the Marketing Department

Welcome back to a new and exciting year! The marketing department would like to thank everyone for the hard work they've contributed to making this year's Renaissance Festival bigger and better! We've had many successful promotional events with getting the word around about the new events coming this season.

Now that the festival has arrived, we need your help again. Listed below are the new events that will go on throughout the festival, please help by spreading the word around to patrons when interactions with them.

New for 2008:

Pet Fest: Pet Fest was brand new last year, but this year it is bigger, better and has 7 times more vendors than last year! Pet Fest will be held on the first weekend of festival on the Special Events Field and is sponsored by Auntie Ruth's. Events include: pet demonstrations and seminars, an adoption show, and many pet contests. This event is our largest so make sure to spread the word!

Polaris ATV Track: Polaris will be premiering their 2009 vehicles in the Polaris Kingdom located by Gate A. Patrons will have the chance to test drive the vehicles, learn about the new features and talk to Polaris representatives. The Polaris Kingdom will only be open the weekends of August 30-September 1 and September 13-14. Patrons do not have to pay an extra fee for this event and it cannot be accessed from outside the Renaissance gates.

Boce Ball Tournament: This event will be during the Italian Carnivale, September 20-21. It is open to anyone and everyone and will be held in the Special Events Field. Registration is on our website or patrons can register the day of the event. We welcome entertainment groups to participate.

Wine Festival: This year the Wine Festival will be a different weekend from the Chocolate Festival allowing more vendors to attend. This also will be located in the Special Events Field and is on September 13-14 during our Wine Gala.

Microbrew Tasting: This event will be held on September 7th during the Irish Heritage Celebration. Local breweries, bars and restaurants will be bringing out their finest beers for patrons to sample.

Welcome Newby's!!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce some great new additions to our staff!

Alicia is one of our Marketing Coordinators and joined the department in May. Alicia graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with her degree in Journalism and Mass Communication with a minor in Communication. Don't forget to say hi to her out on site!

Cammi is our other Marketing Coordinator and also joined the department in May. She graduated from Mankato with her degree in Journalism with a minor in Marketing. She's already been identified as the "short one" so make sure to look for her out on site and welcome her to the team!

Thanks again,
Deb Schaber
Marketing Director

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Blasting Safety Procedures

Typically blasting will take place at noon on one or two days a week, but not on Saturdays or Sundays. You should therefore plan that when there is to be blasting on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, you will need to follow these safety procedures:

Vehicular access into the Booth site, campground and the parking lots will be blocked until the blast has occurred (approximately 1 ½ hours).

The siren will be turned on for a short period of time, say at 11:00 a.m. That means that there will be a blast at noon that day (one hour later) or within one hour of whenever the siren first sounds. So for example, if for some reason the plan is to blast at 2:00 p.m. versus at noon (due to weather conditions or other delays) you will hear the first siren at 1:00 p.m. Blasting will never occur before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m.

One-half hour after the first siren (therefore ½ hour before the blast) there will be a second siren which will mean that you then must start moving towards the designated safety site.

Within fifteen minutes after that second siren you must be at the designated safety area for that blast or you must be off of the Renaissance Festival site completely, that means out the gate to the west to 145th Street or out to the Trail of Terror area towards Highway 41.

Fifteen minutes from the designated blast time, representatives of the mining company and MAF will drive through the campground and the booth site to make sure that everyone is in compliance.

Because of the importance of compliance, anyone who is not in compliance will be fined \$100. There will be no exceptions. You are personally responsible for making sure that your guests, invitees, employees, booth suppliers, repair people or anyone on site at your direction or request, complies with these procedures. If there are repeated violations, the penalty will increase and/or the right of that person to remain on the premises for the duration of the Festival will be terminated. We have no choice but to enforce such rules for your safety and to make sure that everyone conforms to these rules for the good of the future of the Festival.

Therefore, as noted above within 45 minutes of that first siren you should be at the designated safety site. The designated safety site for these blasts, unless you are informed to the contrary, will be at the northwest corner of the booth site, at booth numbers 835-844 (where the booths burned down several years ago).

You must remain at that designated safety site until the blast occurs or until the representative of MAF informs you that for some reason that the planned blast will not occur within the foreseeable future and people can then leave the designated safety area site. Infrequently the planned blast is delayed for an hour or two in which event the entire process (i.e. sirens) will start again for the newly established delayed blast time.

We welcome any ideas that you might have as to how to make this procedure work better for you and for others. We seek to minimize the impact that it has upon your other activities on the site.



Anniversary Service Awards

The Minnesota Renaissance Festival Service Awards will honor all those participants who have been involved with the Festival for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years. Please fill out the following participation form to be eligible. The years must be consecutive. (Please be as detailed and accurate as possible.)

The completed form can be returned to B-Gate, Information Booth or the Entertainment office.

No forms will be accepted after Sunday, August 24th, 2008

NO exceptions!

Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone#: () _____

Year	Area Of Participation	Booth Name	Booth Number
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2007			
2006			
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