

Block party to celebrate reopening of 1st Street

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership cordially invites one and all to a Rockin' Block Party to celebrate the reopening of 1st Street and the comple-

tion of Phase 2 construction in the 1st Street Redevelopment project. The Rockin' Block Party will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 3 p.m. until 9

p.m. on 1st Street between Indiana Street and Cobblestone Drive. Everyone is invited, entrance to the event is free and local parking is available at no charge.

The Rockin' Block Party will feature a variety of fun activities for all ages. 95.9 The River will be broadcasting live from 1st Street from 3 to 5 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the 1st Street Redevelopment project, with a sneak-peek of the brand new Milestone Row building. From 3 to 6 p.m. there will be numerous children's activities, including the opportunity to get an up-close-and-personal look at the construction equipment, and pose with Charles T. Fox for photos.

A Business Spotlight tent will allow residents to explore downtown St. Charles' unique retailers, and the "Taste of St. Charles" tent will offer party-goers the chance to buy food specialties from many local, favorite eateries. The Class of '68 will perform rock and roll favorites from 6 to 9 p.m. This high energy band gets everyone on their feet as they capture all of the energy and enthusiasm of what many would consider the "golden age" of Top 40's greatest hits.

In addition, McNally's Irish Pub will be hosting a beer garden for the 21-and-over crowd.

DSCP Executive Director, David Richards explained, "The purpose of the party is to celebrate a milestone in the 1st Street Redevelopment project. It's important to involve the community in celebrating and acknowledging the landmarks that are achieved along the way in a multi-year revitalization of our downtown district. The Rockin' Block Party will give residents the opportunity to get right down into the middle of the construction to see

first hand what's been accomplished and to envision what's to come."

The completion of Phase II will include the re-opening of South 1st Street between Indiana and Prairie Streets. This re-opening will allow vehicle traffic to travel the length of 1st Street from September through this winter, until Phase III construction begins.

In addition, the Harris Bank drive-through is making great progress, and Milestone Row tenants including STC Capital Bank and Management Recruiters International will be moving in soon.

The Rockin' Block Party is produced by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, and is sponsored in part by 1st Street Development, LLC., STC Capital Bank, Milestone Properties, Harris St. Charles, and Blue Goose Supermarket.

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership is a volunteer and membership-based organization whose mission is to "enhance the economic viability and to preserve the character and beauty of downtown St. Charles."

For information about the Rockin' Block Party or other DSCP events and activities, visit www.dtown.org or call 513-5386.

Garfield Museum offers buckskin tanning class

Come and learn one of the most durable and timeless methods of tanning at Garfield Farm Museum, Saturday, Sept. 15. From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tanner, Spring DeLeon, will conduct a class and demonstration on buckskin tanning practices of the pioneers. Participants will make and take home their own buckskin.

When thinking of buckskin, most people visualize long-fringed native Americans on horseback or adventurous frontiersmen on a remote mountain hunt. Few realize that buckskin was once as common as blue jeans, worn for its durability and softness, its ability for cutting the wind, and allow the skin to breath, and stretches with daily body movement. Not only was buckskin worn because of its durability and softness, but because of such easy availability.

Buckskin stood up to the rigors of pioneer/frontier life as it wouldn't easily snag or tear. When away from civilization pioneers did not have the luxury of going to the general store for factory made woven fabrics.

Only if they brought sheep or raised flax for linen could they spin yarn or thread to make clothing. That required a spinning wheel and loom to make fabrics for dresses and other clothing items. At times pioneers had to employ other methods to for mak-

ing clothing and that is where tanning came of use.

All fabrics are composed of fibers and the leather cloth made from deer and other animals is no different. No weaving is required to make leather cloth. All a resourceful pioneer needs is to condition what nature has already created by tanning the hides of the wild game. The object of tanning is to then unlock that intricately woven fabric and preserve it in a usable state. Buckskin is made with the aid of oils, emulsifiers, physical manipulation and wood smoke, leaving it a material between a fabric and a leather, with some qualities all its own.

There is a \$20 donation for this class and reservations are required with a minimum class of three and maximum of 10 attendees. Lunch will be provided on site. The class is subject to weather. If it rains the class will be canceled. For reservations or more information call the museum at 584-8485, or e-mail at info@garfieldfarm.org.

Garfield Farm Museum is located 5 miles west of Geneva off Rout 38 on Garfield Road. The 370-acre site is a historically intact former 1840s farm and teamster inn being restored as an 1840s working farm museum by volunteers and donors from around the country.

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