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International Festival plans shaping up

2016 event adds duck race

By Richard Payerchin, The Morning Journal

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New prices, new ducks and old favorites are coming to the [2016 Lorain International Festival and Bazaar](#).

Lorain's signature community festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Bazaar will run June 24 to 26. Admission this year is \$3 per person, no matter what time guests arrive.

The past few years, festival tickets cost \$2 in the afternoon and \$5 in the evening.

The goal is to provide an affordable cultural event for the county, while keeping the festival viable as a nonprofit entity, according to the planning committee.

The flat rate makes it easier for all festival visitors, whether they come for lunch or to see the bands perform at night, said Ben Davey, committee spokesman.

This year's festival also will have a new [Lorain Duck Derby](#) on Sunday, June 26.

Proceeds will benefit the Lorain International Association and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lorain County.

Although other communities have used the duck race method as a fundraiser, it appeared this will be the first duck race on the Black River, Davey said.

People can sponsor a duck for \$5.

"It's essentially like getting a raffle ticket or a lottery ticket," Davey said.

About 3 p.m., the marked rubber yellow ducks will be dumped in the Black River. The first three ducks across the designated finish line are the winners, and the sponsors of those ducks will take home prizes.

The grand prize is \$1,000 cash; the prize is \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place.

"All of this is for the benefit of the International and the Boys and Girls Clubs, so it's nonprofit and it's a way to add something special and unique for the 50th anniversary," Davey said.

People interested may sponsor a six-duck quack pack for \$25 and a dozen duck flock for \$50.

The bazaar will include a display dedicated to the 50-year anniversary of the festival.

The [Lorain Historical Society](#) collected items donated by past participants. Lorain County native Amy Crooks, a student at the University of Cincinnati, and Lorain native Alex Woledge, a student at The Ohio State University, are planning the exhibit.

Apart from the Bazaar, other festival events will run the week of June 20.

That day will be the Lorain International Breakfast at DeLuca's Place in the Park. The guest speaker will be Alec D. Van Ryan, the Morning Journal reporter and columnist who covered the Lorain International Festival at its beginning.

A free outdoor band concert at Veterans Memorial Park on West Erie Avenue in Lorain takes place June 20.

The Heritage of Sacred Music concert, a free event, starts at 7 p.m., June 21, at the Lorain Palace Theater, 617 Broadway. The show features choirs and musical groups from Lorain churches.

The Princess Pageant starts at 7 p.m., June 23, also at the Palace Theater.

The Lorain International Parade will start at 11:30 a.m., June 26. The parade runs from Broadway and 15th Street to Lorain City Hall.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was edited at 3:05 p.m. May 23 to correct the date of the parade.

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