

LIFESTYLE

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FILE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Irish dancers entertain the spectators during the Celtic Festival at Furnace Town.

Speak some Gaelic and drink some beer

Chesapeake Celtic Festival at Furnace Town this weekend

SNOW HILL – Organizers of the Chesapeake Celtic Festival at Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum announce the schedule for this annual heritage event, which draws more than 3,500 people to the shore.

It will take place at Furnace Town 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 and 5, with a special Ceilidh from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Free parking is available at and near the festival, and a free shuttle runs both days between Sturgis Park by the Pocomoke River in Snow Hill and the festival site. Festival goers receive a complete schedule and map of the grounds. The schedule is the same each day, except for the Saturday-only Ceilidh.

Those who arrive at 11 a.m. will enjoy the Dancenter Irish Dancers on the Main Stage, Dancers on the Ceilidh Stage, and Seamus O'Reilly on the Pub Tent Stage. This year Seamus will be joined by Sweet Molly Malone.

At noon Saturday the opening ceremony features a procession led by the Snow Hill High School Junior Marine Corps ROTC Color Guard, who will carry and present the Flags of the Seven Celtic Nations. It includes greetings in Gaelic, presentation of the Clans, Flowers of the Forest, and Amazing Grace sung in Gaelic, picked up by the Ocean City Pipe and Drum band that segues to the Bagpipe Concert.

Shows begin at 1 p.m. on the Main Stage and the Pub Stage, featuring Welsh and Breton music by Moch Pryderi, music of the seven Celtic nations by Iona and stand-up comedy by Seamus O'Reilly and Molly Malone. The Footsteps Irish Dancers again perform their traditional grand finale on the Main Stage.

The special feature of this year's festival will be an original 40-minute musical, "When Pigs Fly" featuring Cheryl Blackman. The actress has appeared in eight films including playing the role of Miss Piggy in "The Muppet Movie." This

time she will play a leprechaun who has a pet pig.

There will be educational presentations in the Old Nazareth Chapel beginning each day at 1:30 p.m. and changing each 30 minutes.

In addition to the staged shows each day, visitors can enjoy the Highland Encampment of the SCA; stiltwalker, Captain Morgan; Celtic Fashions exhibit; a Pat and Chat with Celtic Breed Dogs; the medieval European martial arts demonstrations; Clan Booths; the Gaelic Language Society; the Highland Heptathlon demonstrations; Woodland Watercolors with Sharon Himes in The Gathering Room; bagpiping; the Celtic Marketplace; specialty Ales and Brews; and ethnic and local culinary delights.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$3 for children age 2-18 each day. The Saturday evening Ceilidh fee is \$5 for adults, \$2 age 2-18. More surprises are still being added. Details are at www.celticfest.net.

Oktoberfest starts next weekend

OCEAN CITY – Oktoberfest and the Art & Craft Fair will take place on Oct. 10, 11 and 12 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City. Hours are Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday 11a.m.-4 p.m. Art & Craft Fair hours are Friday 11a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Eat, drink, and be merry with schnitzels, wurst, and barrels of bier. Enjoy continuous music, entertainment, and fun for the whole family, and browse the Arts & Craft Fair exhibits.

Visitors to the show are encouraged to participate in the Couples Dance Contests to be held on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The three categories will be 15 and under, adults, and seniors (55 & up). Great prizes will be awarded for each category. Free admission to the first 12 couples who sign up in each category of the Couples Dance Contests.

On Sunday a Knockwurst Eating Contest will be held for those over the age of 18. This 12-minute competition begins at 1:30 p.m. Each of the lucky competitors will receive a prize with the grand prize going to the winner. Free admission to the first 12 people who sign up and participate in the Knockwurst Eating Contest.

Obtain entry forms for both contests and sign up early by emailing ocean-promotions@beachin.net or calling 410-524-5270. Entry forms will also be available at the door.

Free admission Friday and Saturday nights after 6 p.m. to everyone wearing suspenders. Free admission everyday and anytime to everyone in full German, Austrian or Bavarian clothing.

Berlin's 2nd Friday Art Stroll on Oct. 10

BERLIN – This month's 2nd Friday Art Stroll will take place 5-8 p.m. Oct. 10. Artwork from local artists will be on display in most of the shops downtown. The artists will be on hand to answer questions about their work and the shops will have wine and light refreshment. Music will be offered by several of our establishments to make your stroll around town fun.

The Step Above will have Jeanne Landau Cohen who paints splashes of sensuous watercolors and her wet works are a treat for the eye. The Water's Edge will have on display, new works by Deb and Bill Rolig.

Abigail's will have Beverly Lynch who paints scenes of the Eastern Shore. Patrick Henry will have his gallery open and will be on hand to answer questions and show his work.

The Worcester County Art Council will have Sharon Himes, a watercolorist, with a show titled "Woodland Season." Liz Lind will be on hand in her new studio and will have many of her works on display.