

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: *Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau*

CONTACT: *Maggie Beckford 419-285-2213 (office) 419-341-2181 (mobile)*

Email: maggie_beckford@visitputinbay.com

ART: Go to visitputinbay.com and click on the Media Information link for images.

PUT-IN-BAY (OH) – Members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will gather at the Park Hotel in less than two weeks to clean and slice nearly 75 gallons of strawberries as they prepare for the 41st annual Founder's Day celebration here on Sunday, June 14.

The island church's congregation will spend about four hours preparing the berries that will cover 500 homemade shortcakes.

An old fashioned community social with lots of food, live music, kid's games, and bargain tables, Founder's Day will be held in DeRivera Park from 11 am to 5 pm.

"This event really is a celebration of our beautiful downtown park named for Jose DeRivera," said Put-in-Bay Chamber Executive Director Maggie Beckford. "DeRivera was a New York City businessman who once owned several of the Lake Erie Islands, including South Bass."

Beckford said the DeRivera Park Trust allows the chamber of commerce to hold the celebration in the park because it celebrates the man who donated the park property to the community.

It also is an opportunity, she said, for the island's non-profits and churches to fundraise.

Local singing legend Bob Gatewood will provide 90 minutes of musical entertainment from 12:30 to 2 pm. The Founder's Day Committee has a variety of fun games for the kids to play and there are a lot of fun prizes to win too. Games will be open from noon to 3pm.

At 2:30 pm the weekly Sunday Afternoon Parade of antique, vintage and classic cars will wind around the downtown and some may stop in and around the park for visitors to see. More than 100 different vehicles have participated in the weekly parade started by Skip Duggan back in the early 1990's.

Put-in-Bay's Volunteer Fire Department will be selling hot dogs, brats, Italian sausage, chips, and soft drinks. Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church will sell pulled beef sandwiches and corn on the cob, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church will sell their famous strawberry shortcake.

The Hog Roasters have retired after nearly 38 years of doing the Ox Roast lunch.

"A big thank you to the Hog Roasters," said Beckford. "This great group provided the Ox Roast lunch for most of the event's 41 years. The guys have retired but we will always remember their great Founder's Day lunches."

Jose DeRivera St. Jurgo was a Spanish merchant based in New York City. During Ohio's Bicentennial in 2003, DeRivera was the only Hispanic recognized that year with a special Bicentennial marker by the State of Ohio. DeRivera's descendents have visited Put-in-Bay many times since 2003.

You can find out more information about Put-in-Bay events, activities and programs by going to visitputinbay.com.