

**Subject: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Romeo Victorian Festival on Saturday, May 21, 2011**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Spring is finally here, and that means it's time for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Romeo Victorian Festival. Sponsored by the Romeo Historical Society, this year's festival will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in historic Romeo, Michigan.

The Victorian era was named after England's Queen Victoria, and corresponds with her reign from 1837 until 1901. This era was time of great opulence, scientific achievement and cultural endeavors. In 1838, the Village of Romeo was incorporated, and elements of this significant era can still be seen throughout the village today.

Romeo has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and on the State Register of Historic Sites since 1970. This historic, picturesque landscape is the perfect setting for the celebration of Romeo's extensive Victorian architectural and cultural heritage. Organizations, businesses, vendors and individual participants will offer visitors unique opportunities to explore all things Victorian. Festival events include:

**Blacksmith Hammer-In**

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 301 N. Bailey

The Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum, will come to life as blacksmiths offer live demonstrations from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Macomb County History Tent**

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop, 301 N. Bailey St.

- Several local Historical Societies will be there with stories to tell, items for sale and free literature.
- Romeo's own Bill Miller, the machinist who recreated new parts for the First Congregational Church clock tower will be on hand to show interested parties the clock mechanism.
- Just outside the tent, talented wood carvers and crafters will offer unique, handmade items for sale.

**Vintage Bike Display**

10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop, 301 N. Bailey St.

**An Antique Toy Display and Sale**

Stop by and see the toys that have brought smiles to the faces of children long ago and perhaps pick up one while you're there. Hosted by Richmond Lion, Dennis Bolen.

**Vintage Photo Party at the Kezar Library**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 105 Church St.

Stop by the Kezar Library ( <http://www.libcoop.net/romeo/libinfo/hourloca.htm>) for a vintage photo party and enjoy the visual history of Romeo. Maybe you will even be able to help us identify, people, places and events! Refreshments will be served.

### **Civil War Encampment**

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Village Park

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, re-enactors of the Michigan 21st Union Soldiers and their families will set up camp in the village park to show camp life during this turbulent time in American history.

### **Model Railroad Train Display**

11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Village Park

A LGB, large-scale train display featuring models used during the Victorian Era will be set up in the Village Park gazebo.

### **Victorian Style Children's Games and Crafts**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Village Park

Vintage children's games and crafts will be conducted by Margarite Humes in Village Park. The games are aimed at children ages 12 and under but anyone can participate.

### **Fearnaught Stick Pony Parade and Rodeo**

12:30 p.m., Party Maniacs/Village of Fun, 201 N. Main St.

The annual Stick Pony Parade and Rodeo is open to children eight-years-old and younger. Line up begins at 12:30 p.m. and the parade begins at 1:00 p.m. All participants will receive a prize. For more information or to register your little cowpoke, contact Party Maniacs Village of Fun at (586) 752-8755.

### **Main Street Promenade**

10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Downtown Romeo will pour on its Victorian charm from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as performers, businesses and vendors from Hollister to Tillson show off in Victorian style.

- Grab a copy of the Romeo Observer special-edition insert from our old-fashioned newsboy, Ryan Romano, on the corner of St Clair and Main St from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The 1860's newspapers are compliments of The Romeo Observer and have the festival's Schedule of Events.
- Pick up Victorian Shillings, which are redeemable for discounts at several businesses throughout the village.
- Watch actors, musicians, bagpipers, and a variety of street performers throughout the day.
- See the English Bobby at Vera's Balloons R Fun, and have your friends put in the stockade for a shilling or two.
- Visit Labor of Love yarn shop to see the spinners on their porch.
- Satisfy your taste buds with food, drink and baked goods

### **Romeo Transportation Heritage Walking Tour**

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Romeo Arts and Archives Center, 290 N. Main St.

Discover Romeo's contribution to transportation with this guided walking tour of Romeo's transportation heritage markers. Tickets cost \$5.

### **Antique Transportation**

Free antique Trolley rides will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to transport you to all event locations.

Take a free, elegant Pinecrest Perchons' horse-drawn carriage ride down Main Street from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Victorian Mustache Contest**

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Romeo Barber Shop on W. St. Clair Street.

Stop by the Romeo Barbershop or bring a photo to display and show off your Victorian style mustache. Each will be judged and the mustache with the most Victorian Style will get a prize at the end of the day.

### **Connelly's Creations Garden Party**

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., 175 S. Main

Connelly's Creations will host a garden party with several Victorian events and vendors:

- Stop by and relax on the porch with Romeo's own "Lady Lavender", Jennifer Vasich, as she shares a Victorian Lavender Gift Sachet to all who visit, along with Complimentary Tea & Lavender Scones. Vasich will also be signing copies of her cookbook, "The Lavender Gourmet," throughout the day.
- Discover the language of flowers with a class by Lady Lavender. Learn more about this romantic means of communication, the meaning behind the flowers and how to make a Tussie-Mussie.
- Visit "Lady Pam" to experience the aromatics of these lovely plants as she shares fine Essential Oils from doTERRA and Aromatherapy with a Victorian flair.
- Pick up exquisite, handmade jewelry and other items for sale from Romeo Jewelry.
- Watch children dressed in their Victorian finest perform a traditional Maypole dance in celebration of spring.

So join the Village of Romeo as it peels back the layers of time and find the Victorian in you. For more information about the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Romeo Victorian Festival go to [www.romeovictorianfestival.com](http://www.romeovictorianfestival.com).

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Romeo Victorian Festival is sponsored by the Romeo Historical Society, a non-profit, 501 c3 organization dedicated to the preservation of Romeo's exceptional heritage.

The Society is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historical Society of Michigan and the Macomb County Historical Alliance. RHS supports three museums in downtown Romeo, the Bancroft Stranahan House at 132 Church Street, the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum at 301 N. Bailey and the Romeo Arts and Archives Museum at 290 N. Main Street. Each is a unique experience showcasing Romeo history. All three locations are walking distance from historic downtown Romeo, open for events and by appointment.

The Romeo Arts and Archives Museum (RAAC), a former State Police Post building, is open every Tuesday evening from 7pm – 9pm, with research archives and gift shop available. On current display is *The Secret Railroad*, an exhibit that looks into Romeo's role in the Underground Railroad during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. For more information, please call the Romeo Historical Society at 586-752-4111 or visit our website [romeohistoricalsociety.org](http://romeohistoricalsociety.org).