

NEWSPAPERS THE POST

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Food and fun in the Metroparks

Breakfast on bridge, day at Chalet make a great family outing

By **TERRY BRLAS**

Strongsville Post editor

Sunday, Sept. 18 will be a daylong celebration of food, fellowship and fun in Strongsville.

The day kicks off with Breakfast on the Covered Bridge in the Metroparks. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. and runs until 12:30 p.m. After you have satisfied your senses with the food, smells and sights of the morning event it is time to head over to the Metroparks Chalet for A Day at the Chalet, the free Arts in Strongsville event highlighting both the visual and performing arts.

Breakfast on the Covered Bridge

Sponsored by the Strongsville City Club, Breakfast on the Covered Bridge is a tradition stretching back almost three decades. The 2011 event is the 28th annual, taking place on the Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge at Whitney and Eastland roads.

Last year over 1,700 people enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage, lively conversation, and of course, good food served up by City Club members.

Breakfast on the Covered Bridge is the major fundraising event for the Strongsville City Club. Proceeds are used to help fund projects to "cultivate and promote mutual and civic interests."

"Every year the crowds get bigger," City Club President David Knowles said. "The city and Metroparks help us tremendously."

It takes a multitude of community volunteers to make the event happen. Strongsville Mayor Thomas Perciak will be fixing scrambled eggs and serving them up along with pleasantries.

"The volunteers make the difference in this community. We are grateful for them," he said. "I came to this community in 1979 and the same people that were volunteering then are volunteering now. They have their children and their grandchildren volunteering. Without the City Club putting on events like this, Strongsville wouldn't be the community that it is."

A donation of \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under is requested. Free parking with shuttle bus transportation is available from the RTA Park-N-Ride off of Pearl Road near the Ohio Turnpike.

A Day at the Chalet

A Day at the Chalet is in its 12th year. The noon until 5 p.m. event is planned with the family in mind.

There are hands-on events and activities for kids of all ages and entertainment that will satisfy anyone's taste. Speaking of taste, there is free popcorn and cotton candy served on the back patio all after-

noon Caribbean steel pan music.

Each year A Day at the Chalet highlights one country. This year Ukraine is the spotlighted nation with the Kashtan Ukrainian Dance Group scheduled to perform at 2 p.m. There will also be an artist demonstrating how to make Ukrainian Easter eggs, also known as pysanka.

In addition to Kashtan, entertainment includes the Cleveland TOPS Swing Band (12:30 p.m.), Yume Daiko Japanese Drum Group (1 p.m.), Up ensemble jazz trio (1:30 p.m.), the Singing Angels (2:30 p.m.), Strongsville Community Band (3 p.m.), Billy Fischer - Vocal Impressionist (3:30 p.m.) and Strongsville High School Mustang Express (4 p.m.).

Last year's A Day at the Chalet had over 4,000 people in attendance. It takes over 120 volunteers, in-kind donations from sponsors, grant money and cooperation from the city and the Metroparks to make A Day at the Chalet possible.

Arts in Strongsville President Linda Plain thinks 2011 could be larger in terms of attendance.

"It gets bigger every year and people know about us," she said. "Our mission is to show the audience all different forms of art. There are so many hands that put this together and we couldn't do it without them."

As referenced, there will be plenty of activities for the young and young at heart ranging from painting to beading to cupcake decorating. Theatrical techniques will be taught in the drama tent. There will be a potter from the Cleveland Institute of Art demonstrating with a potter's wheel.

"There are not many opportunities like this where a family can spend time together for free and everyone can enjoy themselves," Plain said.

All activities and entertainment at A Day at the Chalet are free, but a donation of canned goods or non-perishable items for the Strongsville Food Bank is greatly appreciated. Burgers, hot dogs, pizza and beverages are available at family friendly prices throughout the day.

Free parking will be available at the Chalet and at the RTA Park-N-Ride at the Ohio Turnpike entrance on Pearl Road. A free shuttle from the Park-N-Ride will be available throughout the day.

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