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MONMOUTH COUNTY FAIR OFFERS FAMILY FUN



FREEHOLD --- From blue ribbons to racing pigs, the *Monmouth County Fair* offers all the excitement of an old-fashioned county fair with a modern flair. This annual event, held Wednesday-Sunday, July 22-26 at East Freehold Showgrounds, Kozloski Road, Freehold, will be celebrating its 41st year of providing wholesome family fun.

Organized and presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H, the Fair maintains the agricultural nature of a traditional county fair with its Home and Garden Competition and 4-H animal shows and exhibits. Those looking for excitement should be sure to catch *Mutts Gone Nuts*, *Circus Camp Show*, and *Hilby the Skinny German Boy* acts. Once again, the Fair will feature the firefighter's competition, *Robinson's Racing Pigs*, and *Bwana Jim's Wildlife Show*.

“Mid-summer means its Monmouth County Fair time,” said Monmouth County Freeholder Lillian G. Burry. “The best of our summer delights – blue ribbon winning flowers and fresh produce, ice cream, games of chance, rides, and a pie eating contest – can be found at this one great event for five days! Be sure to visit the 4-H exhibit and speak to the 4-Hers about all of their projects and animals.”

At the heart of the Fair is the Home & Garden tent. See the county’s finest baked goods, vegetables, flowers and arts and craft pieces as residents compete for the honor of calling theirs the best. Inside the Home & Garden tent, fairgoers will also enjoy ongoing beekeeping, gardening and craft demonstrations.

Once again, the FFA of Monmouth County will run a farm stand. Fairgoers can purchase Jersey Fresh fruits, vegetables and cut flowers. Proceeds will be used for FFA student activities. Those looking to learn more about the county’s agricultural heritage should stop by the Living History Tent. Staff from the Park System’s Historic Walnford in Upper Freehold and Historic Longstreet Farm in Holmdel will bring livestock, hold demonstrations and offer hands-on activities.

Entertainment is a big part of the Fair and this year’s performers promise to deliver. Wednesday night brings *The Amish Outlaws* to the main stage while *Motor City Revue* performs on Thursday. *Dr. Cheeko* takes the stage on Friday while *After the Reign* performs on Saturday. The last act to take the main stage is *NY Dueling Pianos* on Sunday.

The Fair just won’t be the Fair without rides! This year’s Fair rides are provided by Reithoffer Shows and promise to be bigger and better than ever. There will even be a separate area for younger children’s attractions. Ride wristbands will be available, for \$25 per person, on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. These wristbands allow fairgoers to enjoy unlimited rides during their visit. Tickets for the rides will be available daily. Please note that rides are weather permitting.

Fair hours are 5-11 p.m. on Wednesday-Friday, July 22-24; 3-11 p.m. on Saturday, July 25; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday, July 26. Admission is \$8 per person; children 12 and under

are free. Be sure to become a fan of the Monmouth County Park System's Facebook page and enter into upcoming Fair contests to win admission tickets and more.

For more information about the Fair, visit www.monmouthcountyfair.com, or call 732-842-4000.

“Our thanks and appreciation to the Monmouth County Park System and the Monmouth County 4-H Association for keeping this great tradition alive,” added Burry. “Their hardwork and dedication make this a great event for generations of Monmouth County residents and visitors.”

The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.

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