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Contact: Dot Voorhees
(914) 232-8119
dotv@johnjayhomestead.org

19th Annual Homestead Country Fair Weekend Has Something for Everyone!

KATONAH, NY, July 14, 2011 - Get ready for foot-tappin' music, swimming swine and a whole lot more country fun at the Nineteenth Annual Homestead Country Fair Weekend, which takes place September 17 and 18 at the John Jay Homestead in Katonah, NY.

"The Barn Dance and Homestead Country Fair are great events showcasing the Homestead," said Wendy Ross, the Executive Director of the Friends of John Jay Homestead. "It's the perfect time to visit - we've got something for everyone and every budget."

The weekend's events kick-off with the Barn Dance on September 17th, from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The dance includes an informal barbecue, ice cream sundaes, kid's arts and crafts, a raffle for a brand new Apple iPad, and music by local bands. New this year is a mechanical bull which will be available for rides for adults and kids aged 12 and up. The swimming pig races, a crowd favorite, will be held at 5:30 and 7:30 P.M. sharp. Admission is \$20 - \$30 for children and \$50 - \$250 for adults.

"The highlight of this fun-filled evening is definitely the music. Some of the bands playing are The Celenza Boys, Locke Ness, 52 Pick Up, and the ever popular Bad Dog," said Ross.

The following day, on September 18th, the Homestead Country Fair will be held from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. A highlight of the Friends' annual schedule of events, the Country Fair draws more area families to John Jay Homestead State Historic Site than any other occasion.

There are many historically themed activities including an American Revolution Era Encampment, a tree sawing contest, pony rides, arts and crafts and horse drawn wagon rides. Other programs of interest are beekeeping, broom making, live animal petting zoo, and a Farm Market. Also included are live music, a bake sale, and a homemade apple pie contest. Admission is \$25 per car, with ticket sales for various activities.

"Of special interest this year will be a commemoration of the 235th Anniversary of the Battle of White Plains. Members of the Fifth New York and Second New York Regiments will be on hand, recreating marching drills, as well as demonstrating routine aspects of military life during the Revolutionary War," continued Ross. "Gene Sheninger will also be returning with his dogs to provide sheep and duck herding demonstrations, and Benjamin Franklin will be on hand to meet all the fair visitors."

Sponsors of the Homestead Country Fair Weekend include ArtsWestchester, Lloyd Bedford Cox, Inc., Citibank Bedford Village Financial Center and Hudson Valley Bank. Product donors include Captain Lawrence Brewery, Mount Kisco Wine and Spirits, Pepsi Cola of the Hudson Valley and SavATree.

Friends of John Jay Homestead was founded in 1977 by local Bedford residents. It is New York State's day-to-day partner in providing volunteer assistance and critical funding for the purpose of increasing public appreciation and awareness of the history of our nation, our region, and John Jay's contribution to the founding of our nation; encouraging use of the site for both educational and recreational purposes; and restoring and interpreting the Main House and 62-acre landscape. For more information, visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

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