



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFO: Linda Kurtz, 302-734-7511

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KENT COUNTY TOURISM REQUESTS 2011 DOVER DAYS WEEKEND EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

DOVER, DE -- It may be 10 months in the future, but Kent County Tourism, organizers of the annual Dover Days Festival, is seeking information on events and activities scheduled to coincide with next year's event, which will be held on Friday through Sunday, May 6-8, 2011.

"We have local residents as well as out-of-area visitors calling us already about next year's Dover Days Festival," said Linda Kurtz, Chairperson of the 2011 event. "Sunday of the 2011 event happens to coincide with Mother's Day, so we're hoping to have a lot of Sunday activities for moms and families," she said.

Because of the early request for information, Kent County Tourism will begin creating an event schedule in early July. The information may also be included on 15,000 rack cards and media releases set for distribution in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

"If we have early commitments, we'll begin to publicize your activities right away," Ms. Kurtz said. "Last year our community participants held house tours, symphony concerts, a pancake breakfast, international food festival and an antique show that coincided with the Dover Days weekend event. Next year's event will be the festival's 78th anniversary.

The event has a distinguished past, having been started in 1933 by the Garden Club, which hosted "A Day with the Storied Houses and Gardens of Old Dover 1683-1933". The event commemorated the 250th anniversary of the founding of Dover in 1683 by William Penn. In later years, a carriage parade led by the Governor and Mayor, concerts of period music, Governors Tea, and demonstrations of old trades, crafts and games were added to enhance the festivities.

Running continuously through 1940, "A Gala Day at Home in Dover" and "A Day in Old Dover" resumed in 1948 following the interruption of World War II. In 1949, "Old Dover Day" was held under the auspices of The Friends of Old Dover and by 1955 it became a two-day festival. As the inspiration for and founder of Old Dover Days, Mabel Lloyd Ridgely was the first Chair until the war in 1941, and was Honorary Chair until her death in 1962. With the magnitude of the event growing each year, responsibilities were assumed by Kent County Tourism in 1995, which is now celebrated over a three-day period.

There is no charge for including activities and performances in the Dover Days publicity. Information can be emailed to: lkurtz@visitdover.com or called in at 302-734-7511.

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