

2016 TCHCC HERITAGE FEST & MUZIKY EVENTS – PRESS RELEASE

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange will be hosting the annual *Heritage Festival & Muziky* on October 14-15, 2016. The Fest will begin at 4 PM on Friday afternoon in front of the main building with *Oktoberfest on the Deck*. At 5:30 PM, Chicken-N-Dumplings will be served while it lasts in the Hanslik Banquet Hall. At 6:00 PM, music will be provided by the *Dujka Brothers Band* until 9:30 PM. The Dujka Brothers have been making music together for 28 plus years and have several acknowledgements to their name. They have been very successful in bringing new songs written by themselves and other local Texas writers to the Czech music and polka scene. The evening will conclude at 10 PM.

Saturday will see plenty of action all over the TCHCC Complex. The day will centralize in the Czech Village, an early 1900s recreated village complete with residential houses, barns, tavern, saw mill and general store. Demonstrations of early life for the immigrants will take place throughout the grounds all day. There will be farming and household demonstrations and several children's activities including a Kolač Eating Contest, games and train rides. An antique farm equipment and antique car show will spread through the village. The 1880s Zapalac Saw Mill in the village will be operating, cutting wood at three times during the day. The *La Grange Ford Hospoda* (Beer Garden) tent will be in the center of the village with musical entertainment all day. Music will begin at 11 AM till 6 PM on the Shiner Beer Stage by the Shiner Hobo Band and the Czech & Then Some Band alternating. All music venues will have a dance floor. Drink concessions featuring Czech beer along with other favorites will be available. Food concessions will feature sausage and beer brats from *Patek's Shiner Smokehouse*. BBQ sandwiches, chips, kolače and other items will be available as well.

Vendors and Craft Booths will be set up for your shopping pleasure on the main street of the village, *Czech Trail*. A country store will be open for some good buys and you can also pick up some fresh stone ground corn meal for cooking. In the air conditioned TCHCC Main Building, the Czech Gift Shop will be open with a brand new stock of authentic Czech items, garnet jewelry, T-shirts, caps, crystal, periodicals, music CDs, and new Christmas ornaments for 2016. There will be textile demonstrations of spinning, looming, crochet and knitting. In the Museum, a display of authentic Czech Kroje and other items can be viewed along with a history of the area in and around Fayette County. The spacious Melnar Library will offer help with genealogy research for those interested in finding out more about their family or Czech history. The Hanslik Hall located inside the main building will be the site of the annual *KJT State Taroky Tournament*. The Czech Music Museum of Texas featuring four genres of Czech music, classical, folk, polka and liturgical, is located in the Kalich House and will be open for tours along with the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum housed in the Hoelscher House and the Czech Agriculture Museum in the Janak Barn.

The day will conclude with the annual performance of *Muziky, Muziky* at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater on the complex grounds overlooking the scenic Colorado River Valley. This year's Muziky will feature the *Legends of Texas Polka Music Series, Part IV* with the *Retiring Performance of the Donnie Wavra Band*. It will be an exciting and memorable performance as local legendary musician Donnie Wavra retires his band. Stories of the bands many travels and performances will be told and former members of the band will rejoin together for a final tribute. The Master of Ceremonies for the show will be the 2014 National Polka Music Pioneer Award winner, DJ and Bandleader Alfred Vrazel. The performance will be 7-9:30 PM followed by a huge *Fireworks Finale* that will finish off the evening at 9:30 PM sponsored by HEB.