

16TH PORT GIBSON MAIN STREET HERITAGE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD MARCH 29, 2008

Beautiful downtown Port Gibson will be the site of the 16th Annual Port Gibson Main Street Heritage Festival on Saturday, March 29, 2008.

The full day of activities begin at 8:00 a.m. with the Dilla Dash, a 5K walk/run. This Mississippi Track Association Grand Prix Event will take participants through the residential streets of Mississippi's third oldest incorporated town which should be in full spring bloom. Entry fee is nominal and each participant will receive a collectible t-shirt.

Throughout the day, arts and crafts and food vendors from across the Southeast will showcase their wares from plants and clothes to handmade jewelry and stained glass. In addition, Mississippi artisans, many of them members of the Mississippi Artists Guild, will spend the day demonstrating and talking to the public about their particular specialty craft from pottery to ironwork. Mississippi Cultural Crossroads' 21st annual quilt show will be on display featuring African-American, European-American and heirloom quilts.

New to the Festival this year will be a gardening section which will feature vendors with products of interest to the gardening enthusiasts including plants, vessels and unusual tools. Nellie Neal, also known as The GardenMama will speak at 12:30 p.m. in the Bernheimer Building about overlooked and alternative garden products. A question and answer session will follow. Chairperson of this event, Judy Moore, said "We are excited to have this new event and think that the public will enjoy hearing what The GardenMama has to offer as we get ready for Spring planting time. She will also bring door prizes that participants in the session have a chance to win.

The Festival will feature a Children's Park, guided walking tours of Port Gibson's beautiful and historic churches, and carriage rides. The Original Mississippi Venison Cookoff, a Festival favorite includes the cookoff competition, with a \$1000 first prize, and tastings which may be purchased by the public.

Music on the Main Stage will begin at approximate 2:00 p.m. with the country western sound of William Michael Morgan. This 14 year old from Vicksburg has received regional attention and awards for his talent. Jackson R&B group Compozitionz will follow with their "Temptations Revue" and coming back to the Heritage Festival by popular demand will be the south's premier show band, The Bluz Boys, from Jackson, MS.

The Heritage Festival, which is the major fundraising event for the Port Gibson Main Street program, is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and support by the City of Port Gibson and corporate sponsors such as Entergy Ameristar Casino Vicksburg, Pepsi Brown Bottling Group, AT&T, Mississippi Farm Bureau and Southwest MS EPA.

There is no admission fee to the Heritage Festival and the day promises to be one full of activities for everyone. Vendor and other applications or additional information are available on the web site: www.portgibsonmainstreet.com or by calling the Main Street office at (601)437-4500.