Historical Society Relocates, 2-Day Antiques Faire, Reopens Doors to Visitors



Ocean County Historical Society Antiques Faire.
Photo credit: Historical Society

The Ocean County Historical Society is very pleased to announce its 34th annual Antiques, Crafts, and Collectibles Faire will be held in the Toms River High School South cafetorium and will be a two-day event, to take place on Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. As usual, the event will have historic reenactors, baked goods, entertainment, a 50/50 raffle, and much more to be announced. For additional information about the Faire, call the Society's Vice President Jeff Schenker at (609) 339-9134.

Schenker named a variety of reasons for the move to the Toms River South location: the large, symmetrical, well-lit room; the ability to provide tables and chairs to Faire vendors; the opportunity to expand it to two days, without concern for the weather; ample parking; and convenient vendor load-in and pack-out.

Organizers will do everything possible to make the room as COVID-safe as possible, he continued. Masks will be required, temperatures will be taken, sanitary stations will be set up, and vendor tables will be spaced six feet apart.

"We are anticipating a large crowd, with the potential for continued long-term growth," Schenker said.

As is the case with all museums nowadays, the pandemic has taken a toll on the organization, which lost out on its largest fundraisers last year. The Antiques Faire had to be postponed and several teas canceled. In addition, the OCHS has been unable to provide any of its monthly live programs, school tours, and bus trips.

Schenker said the Society is proud of its volunteers for working hard to provide stimulating and educational offerings to the public during these difficult times. Each month the Society has been conducting live online programs, on a wide array of topics, which are posted on YouTube afterward. Visit **oceancountyhistory.org** for additional program information. Also on the website is a virtual tour of the Hadley Avenue museum. Recently, the Society has resumed guided tours in person, by reservation only.

A suffragist exhibit has recently been added to the museum displays. Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, the downstairs portion of the museum was renovated in order to tell a more complete story about Ocean County's long, rich, and varied past.

The research center has opened by appointment as well. Anyone interested in visiting should email the Historical Society to make an appointment, at oceancounty.history@verizon.net or ochs_research@verizon.net.

"Our coronavirus safety team has done an exemplary job in creating a safe environment at the museum," he said. "Masks are required to be worn at all times in the museum, we have hand sanitizer stations in place and temperatures are taken upon entering the museum for a tour or to conduct research."