



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

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Contact: Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at 440-774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Family Fun with an Old-Fashioned Flair

Stand tall on stilts, race with hoops across the lawn, hold on to your sack as you hop to the finish line! Youngsters and those young-at-heart will enjoy hands-on fun with all sorts of old-fashioned amusements at the Oberlin Heritage Center on Saturday, August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Heritage Center, located between 73 South Professor Street and 80 South Main Street, will offer a variety of activities that are free and open to the public as part of the **19th Annual Family Fun Fair** taking place in Oberlin. Free parking for Heritage Center guests is available off of 20 West Vine Street through the Midas Muffler lot.

Ring the Schoolhouse bell and drop in to experience historic school lessons and games in the one-room schoolhouse. Visitors of all ages also will have a chance to step back in time and leisurely explore the Heritage Center's two beautifully preserved 19th century homes along with the one-room pioneer-era schoolhouse. The 1866 James Monroe House, the 1836 Little Red Schoolhouse and the 1884 Jewett House will host free "open houses" and invite visitors to learn more about the history of Oberlin and its early residents through "at your own pace" mini tours.

Two neighboring Lorain County historical societies will add to the festive atmosphere on the Heritage Center's grounds. Members of the Brownhelm Historical Association and the Pittsfield Historical Society will join the Heritage Center in offering Civil War era activities for kids, marking the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States.

The Oberlin Heritage Center also will host its regular Saturday morning **Freedom's Friends History Walk** at 11:00 a.m. This 75-minute walking tour winds through and around downtown Oberlin and showcases the community's important role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad. Tickets must be purchased through the Heritage Center's website (www.oberlinheritage.org) or at the Monroe House's Museum Store (73½ South Professor Street) for \$6 per adult (\$1 discount for Oberlin Heritage Center members and current college students with student ID) and children tour free. The tour is most likely enjoyed by children 9 years of age and up.

Rounding out the day at 3 p.m. is the **"I Spy" Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt** designed for children ages 5-11 with an accompanying adult. Advance reservations are required and the fee is \$3 per child (adult companions are free). This fun and engaging guided tour leads families through historic Oberlin with eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. The "hunt" begins at the Monroe House (at the back of the Conservatory parking lot across from the Kohl Jazz Building). We'll walk about outside in fair weather and "spy" inside the Heritage Center's historic buildings if it's raining.

For more information about the Oberlin Heritage Center and its Family Fun Fair activities visit www.oberlinheritage.org. For general information about Family Fun Fair events throughout Oberlin, visit www.oberlin.org or contact Main Street Oberlin at 440-774-6262 or email contact@oberlin.org.

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