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Some things in life are free...

Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Free Admission on *Smithsonian* Magazine's 5th Annual Museum Day

OBERLIN, OH (September 11, 2009) -- On Saturday, September 26, 2009, the Oberlin Heritage Center will offer free admission for guided tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., as the museum participates in the fifth annual Museum Day, presented by *Smithsonian* magazine. Museum Day is a day when museums and cultural institutions nationwide open their doors free of charge to *Smithsonian* magazine readers and Smithsonian.com visitors. A celebration of culture, learning and the dissemination of knowledge, *Smithsonian's* Museum Day reflects the spirit of the magazine, and emulates the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, DC-based properties.

"Museum Day offers a great opportunity to take a tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center or to visit another participating museum" said Pat Murphy, the Heritage Center's Executive Director. "Exploring a museum is an ideal way to spend the day as a family, learn something new, and have a lot of fun together."

The award-winning Oberlin Heritage Center is located 35 miles southwest of Cleveland in Lorain County, Ohio. The organization is accredited by the American Association of Museums and operates a site of three beautifully preserved historic buildings. The tour presents stories of everyday people doing extraordinary things ever since the college and town were founded in 1833. Visitors learn about the Underground Railroad and abolition, student life, women's history, the development of aluminum, decorative arts, and much more. Free parking is available off of West Vine Street (Google 20 West Vine Street for a map to the area) directly behind the 1866 Monroe House, which houses the main offices of the Heritage Center, and is the starting place for the guided tour.

Attendees must present *Smithsonian* magazine's Museum Day Admission Card to gain free entry for two people to participating institutions. The Museum Day Admission Card is available in the September 2009 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine and a downloadable version is available on the Museum Day website at www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday. This website also provides listings and links to other participating museum sites which represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico. Last year, upwards of 200,000 people across the country attended Museum Day.

For more information about the Oberlin Heritage Center, or *Smithsonian* magazine's Museum Day, please visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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