

For immediate release

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Barbecue Teams Sought for New Event

Paris, TN - The Downtown Paris Association (DPA) is seeking entrants for You Be the Judge – First Annual DPA Barbecued Meat Competition. The event takes place on Saturday, May 14 on the lawn of Henry County’s historic courthouse. Proceeds will benefit the W.G. Rhea Library and the DPA. The competition runs from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

“This event is unique,” said George Whiteman, chairman, “because teams can cook any meat that is commercially available. The other interesting twist is that the public chooses the winners by stopping by the booths, tasting the meat and casting their ballot,” he said.

Whiteman encouraged backyard barbecue enthusiasts as well as barbecue aficionados to sign up for this event. The cost per cooking team is only \$25. The grand prize is a “bodacious trophy,” said Whiteman and bragging rights.

Entry forms and rules are available at www.VisitDowntownParis.com and at Leach’s Music, Abbott’s Print Shop or the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Completed entry forms must be sent to the DPA, PO Box 95, Paris, TN 38242 or dropped off at Leach’s Music on East Washington Street.

“This competition is a great way to promote a business or organization,” said Whiteman, who indicated that early entrants include restaurant and retail shop owners as well as churches. “People are cooking all sorts of meats, which is great,” he said. “We wanted a real variety that would appeal to folks’ taste buds and help raise money for the library and DPA.”

Tasting tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at participating downtown businesses, Abbott's Printing on Abbott Lane or the Chamber of Commerce on Highway 79N.

Whiteman noted that downtown Paris is going to a busy place on May 14. "That's the day that the First United Methodist Church Relay for Life Team hosts the Dartin' Downtown 5K Run/Walk, which kicks off at 7:00 a.m. It's also the day of the Tomorrow's Hope Spring Fling beginning at noon on Brewer Street with a walk, music, games, bouncers and more. "Since the barbecue teams can set up at 4:00 a.m., there will be plenty of cooking and booking around the square that day," he said.

For more information, go to www.VisitDowntownParis.com or call DPA President Mike Key at 731-642-9271.

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