

Press Release

Date: June 5, 2008

For immediate release

Subject: Seventeenth Annual Tomato Festival
Saturday, August 16, 2008, 10 am to 5 pm AND
Sunday, August 17, 2008, 11 am to 4 pm

The Fairfield Downtown Association Tomato Festival & West Coast BBQ

Championship returns for its seventeenth year with an enhanced event, growing to two days of fun for the whole family. The very popular **FREE** event will open on Saturday, August 16th from 10 am until 5 pm, with a **FREE** concert by Watersign and East Bay Budd from 6:00 pm until 9:30 pm. The festival will wrap up on Sunday, August 17th, from 11 am until 4 pm.

Tomato Alley is the centerpiece of our family friendly event. Tenbrink Farms of Suisun Valley raises a crop of **heirloom tomatoes** especially chosen for our celebration of Solano County's agricultural heritage. The 2007 crop provided over a ton of juicy tomatoes in a rainbow of colors- purple, orange, yellow and green tomatoes above and beyond delicious varieties of traditionally red tomatoes. In addition, gourmet tomato product companies will showcase their wares including salsa, dipping sauces and flavored oils. Suisun Valley Fund will host a farmers market and wine tasting.

Now is the time to plant your own tomatoes, because the **Best Home Grown Tomato Contest** returns with judging of the fruit for color, flavor and size. Cash will be awarded to the growers of the winning tomatoes.

Of course, the ever-popular **Tomato Eating Contest** also returns with last year's champions ready and willing to defend their titles.

The **West Coast Barbeque Championship** returns for the fifth year, coordinated by Ben Lobenstein. The teams for the fifth annual event will be divided into two distinctly different series.

Any team that has competed before in a KCBS, ICBA, MIM or other sanctioned barbeque event will compete in the Championship Series. Rookies or those not ready to take on the rigors and the spoils of the Championship Series will be able to try their skills in the Competitor Series.

Any individual or group is invited to enter this contest- friends, family, car clubs, civic groups, public service agencies: anyone can compete. Do you brag to your friends about your ribs? Does your family drool at the very thought of you firing up the grill? Here's your chance to compete with other "back yard" grillers for that most coveted award- Bragging Rights- as well as cash prizes and trophies.

Barbeque teams will arrive in Fairfield on Friday, August 15th and set up their grills through the day. They'll cook all night and early morning for "turn in" times before noon. Teams may choose to compete in one or all of the categories: Chicken, Ribs, Brisket, Butt and Tri-tip.

Kid's Activities will include two full blocks of inflatable fun with a bungee jump, the 51-foot King Kong bounce house/ slide and the Titanic slide. Radical Racers will also return this year. In addition, children will have an opportunity to complete free arts and crafts projects sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Northern California. Youngsters will also be able to try their skills in the Mr. Tomato Toss game. Terrific "grab bag" prizes will be awarded to children who can toss a beanbag into Mr. Tomato's giant mouth!

Press Release

Live Musical Entertainment will be featured on two stages both days. The entertainers this year are Aja Vu, Iliana Rose, Michael Robinson, Watersign, the Matty T. Band, East Bay Mudd, Silver Spur, Lava, No Taboo, Bautista, Used Blues and The Bayou Boys. Also performing are the students of Brantley's ATA Academy, Sultan's Treasure Belly Dancing, Danc-Sing Stars Studio and The Dance Network.

Craft and Commercial Vendors are being recruited, with a special emphasis on hand made crafts with the tomato theme. Vendor applications are available for download at the Fairfield Downtown Association website- fairfielddowntown.com.

Free, handicap accessible parking is available in any municipal parking lot surrounding the festival site, and in the Solano County Government Center parking garage at the corner of Delaware Street and Jefferson Street in downtown Fairfield.

The Fairfield Downtown Association is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization supporting the revitalization of Fairfield's historic town center. Corporate sponsorships for the Tomato Festival, the West Coast Barbeque Championship and other downtown events are invited. Sponsorships and community donations help offset the many costs associated with coordinating such large regional events. Current corporate sponsors for this year's festival include the Fairfield Redevelopment Agency, Solano Garbage, KUIC, Travis Credit Union, and Garson Design Services.

Fairfield is located mid-way between San Francisco and Sacramento on Interstate 80. In addition to being the corporate homes of Jelly Belly Candy Company and Guittard Chocolate Company, Fairfield is home to Anheuser Busch Brewery and Travis Air Force Base.

More festival information is available on the website- www.fairfielddowntown.com.

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