

Chamber, City and CPAC to Hold Potato Festival September 6th

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, the City of Monte Vista and the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee will be holding the Second Annual Monte Vista Potato Festival on Saturday, September 6, from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. This year, the festival will be held at Fullenwider Park, near downtown.

All day long there will be food, craft and activity vendors at Fullenwider Park. Some of the items available include: a loaded potato bar, curly fries, funnel cake, BBQ, art and craft vendors, and potato stamping. In addition to the vendors, there will be many new activities for people to participate in.

At 9:00 a.m., there will be a free Potato Farm Production Tour, hosted by CPAC. People who wish to attend will board a bus at Fullenwider Park, which will take them out to a potato field where they will watch potatoes being harvested, then move on to a warehouse where they will see how potatoes are processed. The tour will last approximately two hours, and is free to anyone who wishes to attend. Just make sure to show up early, as space is limited.

From Noon to 4:00 p.m., there will be a Potato Recipe Cook-off and Taste Test Tour held around downtown. There is no fee to participate, but donations will be accepted. People who wish to take the tour will register at the Information Center and receive a map of the recipe locations. Participants will follow the map, stopping at around 15 businesses located in the downtown area, where they will get a sample of that business's potato recipe. Participants will then vote on which recipe they thought was the best, and turn their votes back in to the Information Center. The winning cook will receive a \$500 first prize and the business will receive a plaque. This is a great way to sample a wide variety of recipes featuring San Luis Valley Potatoes.

At 1:00 p.m., CPAC will host professional chefs from the Denver area, who will hold a cooking competition at the Information Center. Eight (8) to ten (10) chefs will compete in an "Iron Chef" style competition, with the featured ingredient being San Luis Valley Potatoes. There is no cost to watch as these professional chefs prepare innovative and flavorful potato dishes. You may even be randomly selected to sit on the judging panel, which will award the top chef \$500.

At 1:30 p.m., Mr. Potato Head will come to Fullenwider Park to take pictures with participants. He will arrive in Monte Vista at 9:30 a.m. and make appearances at various grocery stores, but will be at the park for the day's festivities. Make sure you come out to say hello!

Starting around 2:00 p.m., there will be potato games held at Fullenwider Park. There will be games for all ages, from 3 years old to adult. Some of these games include: Potato Sack Races, Hot Potato, Speed Potato Peeling, Mashed Potato War, Mashed Potato Tower, and a Mashed Potato Treasure Hunt. The schedule of games will be posted at the park the day of the event. Come out and win fun prizes and have some great family fun!

For more information on any of the activities taking place during the Potato Festival, please call Chamber Manager Mary Bork at 852-2731, or Parks and Recreation Director Mike Bork at 852-2692. We'll see you there!