



Estes Park Heritage Festival  
Leslie Williams  
Voice: 970-586-0374  
Email: [info@estesparkheritagefestival.com](mailto:info@estesparkheritagefestival.com)

Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Suzy Blackhurst, Communications Coordinator  
Voice: 970.577.9900, ext 224  
Email: [sblackhurst@estes.org](mailto:sblackhurst@estes.org)

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## **Estes Park celebrates its firm foundation in tourism**

ESTES PARK – Twelve hours of non-stop activity are planned on Aug. 27 when Estes Park celebrates its long history of tourism and mountain living during its first-ever Heritage Festival.

Beginning at 10 a.m. there will be storytelling, musical performances, an old-fashioned wedding, exhibits, vintage fashion show, historic home tour and an old-fashioned cobbler and pie auction will be held throughout the town on Aug. 27. Activities end with an old-time Victorian street dance from 7 to 10 p.m.

Activities begin in Bond Park at 10 a.m. where exhibits and booths will commemorate the area. Attendees can learn about MacGregor Ranch, the Estes Park Center-YMCA of the Rockies, the Estes Park Museum, Rocky Mountain National Park, F.P. Clatworthy photographs, the F.O. Stanley and the Stanley Steamer automobile. A balloon artist will be in the park from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. to entertain children of all ages.

Simultaneous story telling, history re-enactments and musical performances will be taking place throughout the town. A full program schedule of performances at the Knoll Willows area (the open space between Wonderview - U.S. Hwy. 34 bypass and Elkhorn Avenues), Park Theatre at 130 Moraine Ave. and Performance Park at 417 W. Elkhorn Ave. will be available in Bond Park in the center of downtown Estes Park.

### **Musical Performances**

Performance Park, 417 W. Elkhorn Ave., is the site for a variety of musical performances and story telling in two sets. From 2 to 5 p.m. Greg Martin, renowned mountain man story teller will be the host – introducing musicians throughout the afternoon and evening. Performances include the Estes Park Village Band, playing music of the era, Ron Ball playing authentic cowboy music, ragtime music performed by Amanda Valley and classical music by Larry Pierce and Amanda Valley.

Evening performances begin at 7 p.m. with a ragtime and Charleston performance followed by western cowboy singing, ragtime, Dixieland, jazz and blues.

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### **Old Fashioned Wedding**

Tregent Park on the west end of Elkhorn Avenue is the site for the Heritage Festival's Old Fashioned Wedding when Dorian Marina Portillo and Stephen Joel Hess of Longmont tie the official knot. A horse drawn carriage wedding procession begins at 1:30 p.m. at Bond Park and ends at the park for the 2 p.m. ceremony.

### **High Tea & Vintage Fashion Undergarment Fashion Show**

Two High Teas and Vintage Fashion Undergarment Shows are scheduled. Reservations are requested. The cost for the teas is \$15.

The event at the Historic Crags Lodge, 300 Riverside Dr. begins at 11 a.m. and features a program titled "Tea for Two, Victorian Dressing from the Inside Out." Call 970-586-6066 for reservations. "Victorian Undergarments for the Proper Silhouette" is the topic for the 4 p.m. tea at Gilded Pine Meadows Bed & Breakfast, 861 Big Horn Ave. For reservations call 970-586-2426.

### **Historic Walking Tour**

Few people know that Spruce Drive, once called Prospect, is one of the most historic streets in Estes Park and pre-dates the Stanley Hotel and automobiles. Spruce Drive is a narrow, short street that begins on Elkhorn Ave. at the Spruce House, now home to The Christmas Shoppe, directly west of Tregent Park. Spruce Drive crosses over Fall River and winds and curves up the hill to its intersection with Big Horn Drive.

Houses on Spruce Drive date back to 1899. Most were summer cottages. The five Brainard Cottages were built in 1909, the same year the Stanley Hotel opened. Two of these cottages, Twin Pines (at the corner of Lawn Lane and Spruce) and Rock Nook (further up the street) are open for house tours during the Estes Park Heritage Festival. The Spruce House built in 1914 also is also included on the tour.

Other activities include a Collectibles and Artwork and Old Fashioned Pie & Cobbler Auction at 5:30 p.m. on the east side of Bond Park. Restaurants and lodges are providing the pies and cobblers.

The fun-filled day will conclude with an Old Tyme/Victorian Street Dance beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the east side of Bond Park. The band Reintarnation will be performing bluegrass tunes as well as square dances. The dance will be called by Dance Mistress Sharon Moore of River Crossing Inc.

For more information about the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Estes Park Heritage Festival call the Stanley Museum at 577-1903 or visit [www.estesparkheritagefestival.com](http://www.estesparkheritagefestival.com).

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