

RECORD-COURIER

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176th Year, No. 175

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2006

50 CENTS

Lavender festival coming DayBreak in Streetsboro sets cook-off in July



Jody Byrne and Michael Slyker, co-founders of DayBreak Lavender Farm in Streetsboro, see the Ohio Lavender Festival, set for July 7 to 9, as a way to encourage lavender farming in the state. The pair are also hosting a cook-off at the farm during the event. (Photo courtesy of Mary Averill of Averill & Associates Creative Lab and DayBreak Lavender Farm.)

In an effort to make Northeastern Ohio the lavender capital of the Midwest, DayBreak Lavender Farm in Streetsboro is gearing up for its first lavender festival and cook-off.

DayBreak co-founders Jody Byrne and Michael Slyker see the Ohio Lavender Festival an opportunity to encourage lavender farming in Ohio and to celebrate the fact that lavender is as much a culture as it is a versatile herb.

Ohio's first Lavender Festival is scheduled for July 7 to 9 at Streetsboro's only lavender farm, Daybreak Lavender Farm, located at 2129 Frost Road.

"We're also hosting the first-ever Lavender cook-off," Byrne said. "This is a great opportunity to get ladies thinking about entering and beginning to assemble their recipes."

Rules and regulations are available at www.daybreaklavenderfarm.com.

The family-owned lavender farm offers a unique look at lavender farming and a wide variety of its uses.

"There will be many delightful herbal and lavender goodies available," Byrne said.

From sandwiches made with lavender focaccia to lavender lemonade and lavender tea cakes, the festival offers something for everyone.

"It's our first year but just to give you an idea of what a Lavender Festival can do for businesses, google the Sequim Valley Lavender Festival," Streetsboro Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Kori Marsinek said.

She said the festival in Washington state attracts more than 30,000 visitors to the town each summer.

"Those folks need places to eat, coffee to drink, T-shirts to wear, shops to shop in and cakes to taste," Marsinek said. "We want

the Lavender Festival to become something great for the businesses of Streetsboro."

Streetsboro's Lavender Festival hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Single daily admission to the Lavender Festival is \$5.

Two parents plus up to four children under age 13 can purchase a family pass for \$15. Each additional child is \$5.

A Lavender Tea will be served everyday at 4 p.m. and the festival will offer entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

Visitors to the festival can enter the DayBreak Lavender cook-off.

Winners will be announced during the closing ceremonies. First prize is a \$250 DayBreak Lavender Farm gift certificate. Second and third prizes are gift certificates valued at \$100 and \$50, respectively.