

**For Immediate Release**

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**2020 Gathering at Garst Rescheduled**

Last fall, the Gathering at Garst committee met at Garst Museum to start planning the 2020 summer event. Everyone was excited to start working on the 10-year anniversary celebration. **“10 Years Strong”** was the theme chosen by the committee. Great ideas started coming together as they usually do at a Gathering at Garst committee meeting. You have to understand that this group of volunteers has worked together since the first idea about bringing this event to life was discussed. They are committed to making sure it represents the best of our community. They know many first-time visitors come to the grounds of Garst Museum during the Gathering and experience a wonderful array of artists, crafters, garden exhibits, antiques, food, and entertainment. But wait, there’s more—a premier living history encampment with roaring cannons and carriage rides.

How will visitors remember their visit to the Gathering at Garst? We hope they love it as much as we do. That’s why we do what we do, and that’s why the decision to cancel the event this year is so heartbreaking. We know how much everyone looks forward to it. We had all hoped and prayed that this summer things would return to normal, but that was not to be. The virus is still among us, there is no cure, and there is no vaccine. Trying to social distance folks at crowded events like festivals and fairs is impossible. Expecting them to wear face masks during hot July weather is not realistic. The decision to cancel this event is the responsible thing to do. History will reflect if the right decisions were made.

We would like to thank all of the sponsors who generously support the Gathering at Garst year after year. It is only with them that Garst Museum can put on an event of this magnitude. As chairperson of the Gathering at Garst, I would personally like to thank my committee members who all take this event to heart. They are an awesome group of people who put in countless hours preparing for the event. Thanks also go to the Garst Museum staff and groundskeeper. They do a wonderful job. Lastly, I would like to thank the community volunteers who, when asked to give a couple hours of their time helping with the event, say YES! We’ll be contacting you again next year. We plan on celebrating our 10-year anniversary next year on July 24–25, 2021, when we will be **“10 Years StrongER!”**



Photo Caption: Gathering at Garst Committee Members

The Garst Museum is located at:

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