

Letter from the Executive Director

Summer 2020



CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM / MAJOR RIDGE HOME

THE RIDGE REPORT

As we near mid-summer in 2020, I hope that all of you and your families are healthy and safe. When this year began, I don't think anyone expected to face the challenges that have emerged in our communities and the world, all of which has changed how we do things now and in the future.

Due to the current health crisis, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home closed to the public in mid-March. However, the museum has remained afloat, even without visitors and field trips so far in 2020. Here are some of the things we have been working on these past few months:

The museum secured a payroll protection loan that lasted through June. We have also received an operating grant from the Georgia Humanities Council that will help us through the summer.

Chieftains had a successful fundraiser in April by taking the annual Herb & Plant Sale to a virtual platform with "drive by" pickup for customers. Thanks to all who participated this year!

Chieftains launched our "Summer Camp in a Bag" program, which provides all materials and supplies for one elementary school student to complete a variety of activities based around a central theme. Our first two bags sold in June with drive thru pickup to popular success. We are currently selling our "Archaeology" bag with a "Pollinators" bag to come later in July. Details are included in this newsletter.

We are working with Kennesaw State University on a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that will provide equipment, training, and interns to improve and expand our online and digital offerings to the public. Chieftains should know in August whether this grant proposal was successful.

The museum opened again to the public starting Wednesday, July 8th. Health protocols are currently in place to keep visitors and staff safe during their visit. The museum will open from Wednesday-Saturday each week but will close at 4pm to allow staff time to sanitize all spaces for the next business day.

Instead of our traditional Low Country Boil event, we will host the first "Chieftains BBQ To Go" sale in August, the details of which are included in this newsletter

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the museum, I would like to thank you for continuing to support the museum during this difficult time. Remember one of the best ways to sustain the museum is to be a current member. Be sure to renew your membership for 2020 if you haven't done so already! You can view membership levels and renew online at the Chieftains website, www.chieftainmuseum.org.

Sincerely,
Heather Shores

Museum to Host the Inaugural “Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale” in August 2020



Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home will host a new fundraiser in August 2020. The Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale will feature smoked baby back pork ribs and whole hens as well as a cake raffle to raise money for this National Historic Landmark in our community.

The BBQ to Go Sale will take the place of the museum’s annual Low Country Boil and BBQ held annually in August in order to follow public health mandates and CDC guidelines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

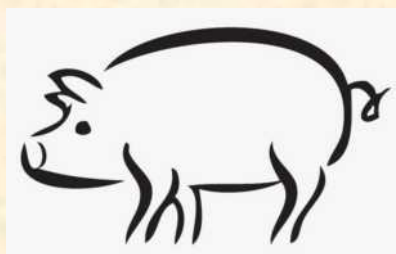
The Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale will allow customers to pre-order delicious wood-smoked whole racks of baby back pork ribs as well as whole hens through the museum’s website at www.chieftainmuseum.org or via phone at (706) 291-9494 from August 1st-8th. Racks of ribs will sell for \$35 each with whole hens selling for \$25 each. Customers may drive by to pick up their smoked meats at the museum in three shifts on Saturday, August 15th. Customers may choose their time slot for pick up when ordering online.

In addition to barbeque, the museum has partnered with Honeymoon Bakery to provide ten cakes for the museum’s first ever online cake raffle as part of the Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale. Each cake is 8” in size and will feed ten to twelve people. Customers will have a variety of flavors to choose from, including carrot, caramel, classic white, German chocolate, Italian cream, red velvet, sour cream chocolate, strawberry, white raspberry Victorian, and a giant white cupcake. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and will go on sale on the museum’s website during the barbeque sale, August 1st-8th. Participants may buy as many raffle tickets as they like towards a particular cake to insure their odds for the raffle. Raffle winners will be chosen after August 8th and may pick up their cake during the barbeque pick-up at the museum on Saturday, August 15th.

New fundraising initiatives are essential for non-profit organizations like Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home where visitation has been hit hard by the COVID-19 health crisis in 2020. “We thought this curbside sale would not only provide a way to sustain the museum but provide our community with a delicious summertime meal for their family and friends,” said Chieftains Museum Executive Director, Heather Shores, who added, “We appreciate all of the support the museum has gotten in 2020 and want to make sure we can sustain this important historical site in the years to come.”

The Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale is hosted by Friends of Chieftains Museum, Inc. with all proceeds going directly towards maintaining the museum.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the first Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale starting August 1, 2020!



Chieftains Creates “Summer Camp in a Bag” Program for the Summertime Blues

Facing the current health crisis and quarantine restrictions, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home created the museum’s first “Summer Camp in a Bag” program in June to provide parents, grandparents and caregivers with a variety of activities to do at home with students during the summer months.



The museum recognized that many summer programs and summer camps are not available to students and families this summer due to health restrictions and that families may need new activities for students now that school has ended. In response, Chieftains offered two themed activity bags in June and will offer two themed activity bags in July to provide families with fun projects they can do from home while learning about Cherokee history and culture.



The first two kits sold by the museum in June were themed "Cherokee Daily Life" and “Cherokee Foodways” with activities that provided a peek into the world of the Cherokee. The third “Summer Camp in a Bag” kit is currently on sale through July 13th and centers on an “Archaeology” theme. This kit features all of the supplies and instructions for a variety of activities for one student including making a gorget, making clay beads, making your own wooden artifact, designing a pottery page, and instructions for trying to find artifacts in your own backyard as well as five coloring sheets, a pack of crayons, and a replica arrowhead.

The “Archaeology” activity bag will be available for curbside pick-up from 10am until 1pm on Friday July 17. To order your kit, visit the “Store” section of the museum’s website at www.chieftainmuseum.org, contact the museum at (706) 291-9494 or email us at chmuseum@bellsouth.net.

The final activity bag for this summer program will have a “Pollinator” theme, allowing students and families to get outside and learn about the valuable contribution these insects and animals make to our ecosystem. This bag will be on sale from July 20th through July 27th with a pick up date of July 31st.

Chieftains has partnered with the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Buckhead to promote the July activity bags, allowing the museum to provide the bags to the greater Atlanta community.

The cost for each “Summer Camp in a Bag” kit is \$15.00 each plus tax or \$25.00 plus tax for two bags. If paying by credit or debit card, a small processing fee may be charged. Chieftains Museum members will receive a 10% discount on the total of their purchase. All proceeds from the “Summer Camp in a Bag” program will go directly towards maintaining the museum during the COVID-19 crisis.

For more information about the museum and our regular programming, visit our website at www.chieftainmuseum.org.

We are now open to the public!



CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at chieftainmuseum.org

The museum will comply with local public health mandates and CDC guidelines to protect the health of our visitors and employees. Please remember:

No more than 10 people will be allowed to tour the museum at one time

Please keep at least six feet from other visitors while touring the house

Facial coverings will be required to tour the museum. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.

All interactive activities have been temporarily removed but visitors will have access to coloring sheets and other activities to take home.

Upcoming Events

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| July 6th-13th: | Archaeology Summer Camp in a Bag on sale |
| July 17th: | Archaeology Summer Camp in a Bag pickup from 10am-1pm |
| July 20th-27th: | Pollinator Summer Camp in a Bag on sale |
| July 31st: | Pollinator Summer Camp in a Bag pickup from 10am-1pm |
| August 1st-8th: | Chieftains BBQ to Go Sale |