Celebrating 200 YEARS OF SANDUSKY
200 years ago, Sandusky was founded as a city of visionaries – people who understood the unique advantages of building a city sheltered by a beautiful, natural bay and adjacent to Lake Erie’s only island chain. These pioneers decided to put down roots and call it home. In 2018, we will celebrate these visionaries and the proud history that is Sandusky, Ohio. We’ll hear stories of the Underground Railroad, Masons who have been here for 200 years and anchor institutions that helped shape the landscape we see today.

2018 will also be a time to build a unified community, with a shared vision; a city that knows their path forward. It will be a year of celebration and pride, and a time to attract new customers to the city and tell Sandusky’s story in a way it has never been told. The Bicentennial is about creating and building on partnerships, momentum and collaboration to create a year unlike Sandusky has ever seen before.

Learn about Sandusky’s rich history at a walking tour or speaking event, support the arts and our local artists by attending the White Out or Chalk Downtown event, ask your children what they’re learning in school and how they want to be of service in 2018, dance the night away at the Bicentennial Ball—there are so many ways to enjoy and be part of the festivities. In 2018 we ask and encourage you to do something new, get involved in the planning, create your own mark on Sandusky, volunteer your time and more than anything... celebrate with us!

Sincerely,

Dennis Murray,  
Commission President

William O. Semans,  
Bicentennial Chairman
Want to stay in the loop for everything Bicentennial in Sandusky? Check out our website at Sandusky2018.com for more about the Bicentennial including events, history, photos and videos.

Facebook.com/Sandusky2018
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Bicentennial Ball
Bring up the name Cedar Point and you’ll hear a different story or memory from each person. For some, it’s recalling days riding on the classics– the Pirate Ride, Disaster Transport, the Rotor or the Demon Drop. Others will tell of grand dances or legendary performances from the likes of Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington in the Cedar Point Ballroom.

On April 28, residents and fans of Sandusky will have the opportunity to create new memories in the iconic Cedar Point Ballroom at a once-in-a-lifetime event, the Bicentennial Ball. A band will play all types of music including tunes from the memorable swing era to today’s pop sounds. This black-tie event will feature dancing, signature cocktails, historic photos on display and more.

Tickets go on sale January 1, 2018 and can be purchased at the Sandusky State Theatre, in the box office or online. Be part of the celebration… after all, an event like this comes along once every 200 years.

TICKETING DETAILS:

$100 per person for intimate tiered seating (table for two or four individuals)
$150 per person for banquet party seating (table for ten individuals)

Proceeds from the Ball will help fund the many free and low cost events throughout the 2018 year.

For more information visit Sandusky2018.com
While the shores of Lake Erie are no stranger to various ships and vessels, they’ve never seen anything quite like this. The Sandusky Festival of Sail and Downtown Street Fair is one of the pillar events for Sandusky’s Bicentennial celebration and with it six or more rare, historic ships from around the world accompanied by the a very large yellow friend.

On July 12–15, 2018, behind the slipstream of the 61 ft. tall, 11-ton World’s Largest Rubber Duck, the awe-inspiring historic ships will gallantly sail on Lake Erie to Sandusky Bay and the downtown’s beautiful waterfront.

This unique festival offers up a rare chance to catch a glimpse, step aboard and even set sail on some of the grandest ships of yore. The event
will be comprised of a four-day celebration that will include a fleet of globally renowned historic ships. Tall ships last visited Sandusky in 2016 and in 2007.

Along with onboard tours and day sails, other exciting activities will include live music, entertainment, locally curated craft beer, educational programming, local food and fun for the entire family.

Be sure to add the Festival of Sail 2018 into your calendar as it takes place on July 12-15 on the beautiful waterfront of Sandusky Bay in historic downtown Sandusky.

For listing of events, ticket information visit SanduskyFestivalofSail.com or Sandusky2018.com
April 28: Bicentennial Ball
July 4: Stars & Stripes Celebration
Boy with the Boot Bicen10k & Family Relay
July 12-15: Festival of Sail & Downtown Street Fair
August 18-19: Founders’ Weekend
November 23-25: Winter Kickoff

Events will be added throughout the year.
Check Sandusky2018.com for up-to-date information.

We’ve enlisted some help in getting the word out. The Boy with the Boot is coming to life. When he isn’t standing at his normal perch in downtown Sandusky the Boy with the Boot will be out and about giving updates about the Bicentennial. The younger generation better understands this whole social media thing so be sure to give him a follow as well.

Follow the Boy with the Boot on
Facebook.com BoywiththeBoot
@BoywiththeBoot
@BoywiththeBoot
Sandusky has always embraced its role as a tourism community as the city is only a bay away from one of the world’s largest and best amusement parks, Cedar Point.

A mural was added in the fall of 2017 to greet residents and visitors to the area in Sandusky’s bicentennial year. The mural was the first outdoor public art project in downtown since the abstract brick wall at the west end of Peddler’s Alley built in 1980 by artist John Spofford, from Athens, Ohio. The mural is on the back wall of the Sandusky State Theatre and can be seen from Water Street and the recently refurbished Jackson Street Parking Lot.

The vintage postcard design is the specialty of the Greetings Tour, a traveling RV of artists who use spray paint to create murals across the country. Artists Victor Ving of New York and Lisa Beggs of Canton, Ohio have created similar murals across the country from Atlanta to Tuscon to Denver to Seattle. The Greetings from Sandusky project was the duo’s 24th mural.

Victor, Lisa and artist Dominic Corry spent a week in Sandusky with unusually warm temperatures to finish the mural in time for the city’s Oktoberfest celebration. The mural includes scenes from Sandusky set in its eight letters with the Cedar Point skyline in the background.

The Greetings From Sandusky Mural was made possible through a partnership with the Sandusky Bicentennial Commission, the City of Sandusky and the Sandusky State Theatre.

Be sure to check-in at the mural on Facebook when you take your next selfie.

WHAT THE IMAGES IN THE LETTERS REPRESENT:

SA - Washington Park’s Floral Clock and Boy with the Boot sculpture
ND - The lighted marquee of the historic Sandusky State Theatre
U - Sandusky’s role in the Underground Railroad. The upper left of the U is Second Baptist Church, founded by a group of former slaves and freeborn blacks. The upper right of the U is the Sloane R. House, a home used to aid those looking to escape slavery in Canada. The lower portion of the U is a depiction of the Pathway to Freedom sculpture. The sculpture stands in Facer Park and was created by Sandusky artist Susan Schultz and the face of Sandusky High School class of 1964 graduate Ulysses Thomas was used in the sculpture.
SKY - Sandusky Bay and the Sandusky Coal Docks at dusk in a view from a Lyman boat. The boat used in the photo is a 1963 25ft Lyman Sleeper owned by Sandusky native Kurt Kresser. The boats were originally manufactured in Sandusky. In between the Lyman and the coal docks there is an Interlake Sailboat. The Interlake was commissioned by the Sandusky Sailing Club in 1963. The 1971 18ft sailboat depicted in the mural is owned by Wes Blazer.

Read more about the Greetings Tour at www.greetingstour.com
The first settlers arrived in the area around 1816. What they found was a potential waterfront unequalled to any on Lake Erie with a shore sloping to any desired depth and skirted by forests of the finest lumber. Fish and game were abundant. With natural resources at hand, the area quickly flourished and by 1818 Sandusky was founded occupying the square formed by Hancock, Jefferson, and Decatur Streets and the bay to the north. Through the 19th century, Sandusky became a dynamic shipping port for lime and lumber. It also became one of the largest freshwater fishing ports in the world and harvested more ice than any area west of the Hudson River. In 1835 Sandusky became the starting point of the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad and became a hub for east, west, and south rail traffic. Though set back by two cholera epidemics, Sandusky continued to grow and prosper.

While ice harvesting and lumber export are a distant memory, Sandusky has continued to evolve with a changing world and has now become a tourist and recreational destination with Cedar Point, a world class amusement park, boating, water parks, Sports Force Park, restaurants, craft breweries and much more. Attend one of our Bicentennial Banter history talks or a unique walking tour experience to learn more about this ever-changing land.
BICENTENNIAL HISTORY EVENTS:

This series explores Sandusky through the ages with educational and fun historic discussions. Topics range from Sandusky’s industries, Sandusky’s diverse makeup and the arrival of ethnicities, and significant time periods such as the Cholera Epidemic and the Underground Railroad. All events take place at 6 p.m. at the Sandusky State Theatre.

BICENTENNIAL BANTER:

JANUARY 17: Winters in Sandusky presented by the Sandusky Maritime Museum
FEBRUARY 7: A glimpse at Black History Month presented by the NAACP
FEBRUARY 21: Sandusky as a Destination on the Underground Railroad presented by the Erie County Historical Society
MARCH 21: Influential leader: Eleutheros Cooke presented by the Cooke-Dorn House Museum
APRIL 18: Jay Cooke, shaping Sandusky & the United States presented by the Erie County Historical Society
JUNE 20: From around the world: Ethnic Sandusky presented by the Sandusky Library
AUGUST 15: Sandusky Firsts presented by the NAACP
SEPTEMBER 19: A reenactment by Sandusky’s Masons, also celebrating their 200th anniversary
OCTOBER 24: Carousel horses & Sandusky presented by Sandusky Merry-Go-Round Museum (at Sandusky Merry-Go-Round Museum)
NOVEMBER 14: Stories & history of Sandusky’s downtown shoreline presented by the Sandusky Library

WALKING TOURS:

Get outside the classroom and learn about the architecture and former life of Sandusky’s historic buildings and parks. These guided tours are led by Erie County Historical Society volunteers and all begin at 6 p.m. at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Washington Row, at the popcorn wagon.

MAY 23: Washington Park, Part 1
JUNE 27: Underground Railroad
JULY 25: Downtown Sandusky, Part 1
AUGUST 22: Downtown Sandusky, Part 2
SEPTEMBER 26: Washington Park, Part 2

CITYWIDE HISTORIC EVENTS:

The organizations have put together some very unique and fun events to put a spin on Sandusky’s history. Please take a look at the events calendar on Sandusky2018.com for the most up-to-date information.

APRIL 8: Celebrate Trinity United Methodist 200th anniversary! (214 E. Jefferson)
MAY 19: International Museum Day—attend any museum for free and see many special exhibits
JUNE 9: Historic Sandusky Repurposed Home Tour at the Cooke-Dorn House Museum
JULY 4: Historic exhibits will be in Adams School during the 4th of July festivities and hourly presenters will highlight various Sandusky history. Also, see the town crier and take part with the historic cornerstone laying (1PM) by Masons Science Lodge 50
JULY 12-15: $1 Museum Days for Sandusky Festival of Sail
AUGUST 18: $1 Museum Days for Sandusky Founders’ Day
AUGUST 18: Cooke-Dorn Museum’s Antique Appraisal Fair—learn about prized possessions and antiques from experts of Garth’s Auctions
SEPTEMBER 16: Three person Reenactment of the Cooke family done in conjunction with Harlequins Theatre
What would a bicentennial be without the many artists, faith based congregations and youth that make up this diverse city? The events created by the community involvement committee demonstrate the magic that happens when you put brilliant and committed people in a room and ask them to collaborate.

Enjoy and experience the arts in a whole new way.
- Be part of the “White Out” where one year olds to 101 year olds will come together, wearing white for a fun and unique, aerial community photo.
- During the Chalk Walk, artists and students will work together to chalk downtown, creating beautiful scenes.
- Write in and tell of your best memories or favorite places in the Love Letter to Sandusky project.

Learn about the historic past and architecture of Sandusky’s churches.
- Step outside your comfort zone and step inside one the churches you’ve always wanted to know more about during the Heritage Sunday, open houses. All are welcome.

Encourage our youth to learn more and be part of their community.
- Be an ambassador and serve your hometown by participating in community wide Service Days.
- Learn about Sandusky’s rich history and help guide its future through Bicentennial inspired curriculum at Sandusky City Schools and Sandusky Central Catholic Schools.

Make 2018 your New Year’s Resolution
- Participate in Bicentennial-themed fitness events like Greenhouse Yoga, Pier Pressure at Schade-Mylander Plaza, Slow Roll bicycle rides in Sandusky.
• Use 2018 as the year you get your health screenings scheduled.
• “Having our area’s residents shed 2,018 lbs in 2018 is a ton of work”

Be part of Founders’ Weekend, August 18-19
• Watch the Founders’ Day Parade on Saturday, August 18 with local high school bands, community-minded floats, local celebrities.
• Experience an August fireworks show.
• Hear the wealth of beautiful voices when Sandusky’s choral groups and high school bands join forces with the Firelands Symphony Orchestra Bicentennial Concert on Sunday, August 19.
Backyard barbecues, parades and waving red, white and blue flags comes to mind when thinking of Fourth of July traditions across the country. Sandusky continues with those traditions with the annual Stars & Stripes Festival hosted by the Sandusky Community Celebrations Council each year in downtown Sandusky’s Washington Park.

The festival starts the morning of the Fourth with food vendors, game tents, pony rides and local bands at the park’s gazebo. Streets are closed as hundreds of people, some pulling patriotically decorated wagons, make their way from the Sandusky Band Parents perch sandwich stand to the Volunteer Center’s Bingo game.

In celebration of the city’s bicentennial and the country’s independence a new event will be added to this year’s Stars & Stripes Festival. Individuals and families can participate in the Boy with the Boot Bicen10k and Family Relay. The event includes a 10k run from the Boy with the Boot fountain in Washington Park to the Ohio Veterans Home in Perkins Township. Relay participants can run one or more of the 1.55 mile legs of the race on Columbus Avenue. The finish will be back at the Boy with the Boot fountain where participants can get an early start to the Stars & Stripes Festival at 10 a.m.

Save the date now in your calendar to celebrate your 2018 Fourth of July in downtown Sandusky.
Sounds of the Sandusky Blue Streak band coming from the gazebo. Smells of fresh popcorn coming from the Red Wagon. Sights of young eyes looking and tiny hands waving to the arrival of Santa in Washington Park.

The annual holiday lighting ceremony is a tradition that spans decades thanks to the Sandusky Community Celebrations Council organizing the event each year.

Area residents fill Washington Park the Friday after Thanksgiving to see the park come to light with the arrival of St. Nick. New lights and features will be added to the already magnificent display of tens of thousands of holiday lights. The Merry Go Round Museum added a new light display to music in 2017 and will expand the show for 2018.

The 2018 Winter Kickoff will include a host of events for an extended weekend including a Thanksgiving-Eve celebration on Wednesday night in downtown Sandusky. Then a fun-filled Friday afternoon and evening with the Christmas Lighting Ceremony with a holiday-themed movie at the Sandusky State Theatre. The weekend will be capped off with the second annual Dot the i, Block the M run on Saturday morning before The Game between Ohio State and Michigan. Participants walk or run from Cameo Pizza at Central Park with a route that makes Script Ohio or Michigan’s block M. Look for Sandusky merchant specials throughout the Winter Kickoff Weekend that includes Black Friday and Small Business Saturday.

How will Santa arrive to Sandusky this year? Will it be by classic car, by firetruck or by boat in 2018? You will have to be there on Friday, November 23 to find out.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS:

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