Holyoke's 125th birthday celebration plans are gearing up and solidifying for a fun time.

Residents should mark their calendars for the extended celebration Friday evening and all day Saturday, June 14-15, in conjunction with the always-popular Dandelion Daze Car Show.

Additionally, a smaller recognition time will be observed on Holyoke's actual birthday, Wednesday, April 24. A melodrama and short evening program will kick off the city's 125th-year celebration that day.

A beard contest and vintage clothing contest will be judged at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 15. The overall beard contest winner and one man and one woman winning top prizes in the clothing contest will earn the honor of serving as grand marshals of the 3:30 p.m. quasquicentennial parade.

Beard awards will be given for the longest, best-groomed and scroungiest, so gentlemen, start those beards!

Vintage-era costumes will be a fun touch to the celebration, similar to the clothing seen at Holyoke's centennial events 25 years ago.

Dandelion Daze is always a fun car show on the courthouse lawn, and the parade this year will include floats from the various decades within the 125 years of Holyoke's existence.

Flags will fly downtown on both Wednesday, April 24, as well as the June 15 celebration. If any business has its centennial-year flag, it is encouraged that those be flown.

Friday, June 14 will kick off the summer celebration with an evening pie and ice cream social, including musical entertainment.

Saturday’s events start with a pancake breakfast from 7-9 a.m. and continue all day through a 7:30-10 p.m. old-time barn dance.

Full schedules are available by contacting the City office at 854-2266 or Holyoke Chamber of Commerce at 854-3517.

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