

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barry County Passport Program offers fall prize package

Active for over two years, the Barry County Tourism Council has been proactively promoting Barry County as a great place to visit and enjoy. With summer in full swing the Tourism Council encourages visitors and residents alike to again have fun using the Passport to Barry County to explore the county collecting Passport stamps along the way both for the joy of the adventure and the possibility of winning a "Barry County travel package" as a result. The summer travel package includes two sundaes at The Scoop Ice Cream Shoppe in downtown Middleville, four tickets to the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, two tickets to the 8th Annual (2011) Thornapple Jazz Festival headliner concert in Hastings from the Thornapple Arts Council of Barry County and \$25 Barry Buck certificate from the Barry County Chamber of Commerce. To be entered into the drawing to win the summer travel package, completed and fully-stamped passports can be turned in to the Barry County Chamber of Commerce by August 23, 2010 with the winner announced on August 27th.

The Tourism Council created the Passport to Barry County program to encourage people to visit area "destinations" and get their passport stamped. The Barry County Passport is a card that can be stamped in the same way a real passport is stamped. Over 50 area businesses, festivals and attractions have signed up to be included as a destination and have a customized stamp to indicate where tourists have visited. If your business is interested in becoming a Passport Destination please call the Chamber at 945-2454. Visit www.explorebarrycounty.com for a listing of Passport Destinations to pick up your free Passport or stop by the Chamber office.

The Tourism Council is a countywide grass-roots group of businesses and organizations interested in growing awareness of community attractions, interesting destinations and unique experiences to be enjoyed in Barry County. The group is currently accepting new council members to join in the discussion and planning efforts to help promote Barry County as a great place to vacation year round. The Tourism Council meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month and encourages county-wide involvement. For a full meeting schedule, please contact the Barry County Chamber of Commerce.

A new website has been developed and is currently being enhanced to promote the natural wonders, events, activities and experiences to create a family fun-filled adventure right here in Barry County. Visit www.explorebarrycounty.com to begin your exploration today!

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