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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 30, 2025

**Camp Point holds Chautauqua Celebration this Independence Day
in honor of Adams County Bicentennial**

CAMP POINT, IL – As part of Adams County’s 200th birthday celebration, the Village of Camp Point will step back in time with a special Chautauqua-style program on Friday, July 4, at historic Bailey Park. The daylong event will feature dynamic speakers, live music, historical reenactments, and traditional family activities reminiscent of the original Chautauqua assemblies that filled Bailey Park from 1907 through the early 1930s.

Chautauqua programs were once a staple of cultural life across the United States and Canada, bringing together communities for days of inspiration, education, and entertainment. Camp Point’s Bailey Park was once home to one of the region’s largest gatherings of this kind—and this year, it will echo with the same spirit once more.

The day begins at 10:00 a.m. when Dr. Tim Jacobs, serving as Master of Ceremonies, opens the program by portraying famed orator and presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, who himself spoke at two of Camp Point’s early Chautauquas.

Throughout the day, attendees will enjoy a rich variety of speakers and performers:

- 11:00 a.m. – Tim Good, noted Lincoln historian and author, will present a program on the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.
- 12:00 p.m. – Musical performance by The Pike Pipers, a recorder ensemble from Pike County.
- 12:30 p.m. – Performance by local favorite band, The Giddy Up and Go Boys.
- 1:00 p.m. – A tribute to Camp Point’s Founding Fathers: Thomas Bailey, Benjamin Booth, William Farlow, and Peter B. Garrett.
- 2:00 p.m. – Dr. Curt Fields, nationally recognized Ulysses S. Grant interpreter, will present a compelling program about Grant’s time in Illinois.
- 3:00 p.m. – Mike Anderson, “The Dulcimer Guy” from Jacksonville, will share stories and music played on this unique folk instrument.
- 4:00 p.m. – Traditional Baby Contest
- 5:00 p.m. – Crowning of Little Miss and Little Mr. Fourth of July

All programs will take place at the Shelter House stage in Bailey Park. In addition to the entertainment, Dean Huber has curated a special historical exhibit featuring photographs of historic homes and businesses that highlight Camp Point's enduring legacy.

"This is more than a celebration of the Fourth of July—it's a tribute to our community's rich history and its place in the broader American story," said Bicentennial Chairperson Chuck Scholz.

Bring a lawn chair, bring your family, and bring your love for history and community. While there won't be tents like the original Chautauqua days, the stories, songs, and spirit will bring those times vividly back to life.

Join in on the fun July 4th at Bailey Park and be part of this unforgettable day of reflection, celebration, and small-town charm.

About Adams County Bicentennial: The Adams County Bicentennial celebrates 200 years of history, resilience, and community spirit in Adams County, Illinois. Through a diverse range of events and initiatives, the Bicentennial aims to honor the county's heritage and engage residents and visitors alike in celebrating its contributions to the region.

For more information about the Adams County Bicentennial and to stay updated on upcoming events, please visit Adams County Bicentennial Website at www.adamsco200.org.

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