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TASTE OF DOWNTOWN & AMERICAN MUSIC SHOW ADDS FRIDAY NIGHT TO FESTIVAL – JULY 8 & 9, 2011

Head to downtown Springfield for a fun-filled weekend as Isringhausen Imports presents the 12th Annual Taste of Downtown along with the Miller Lite Live American Music Show, Friday, July 8, 5:00 p.m. to Midnight and Saturday, July 9, Noon to Midnight, on 5th Street between Jefferson and Adams and on Washington, between 4th and 6th Streets.

The Taste of Downtown showcases a variety of classic, ethnic and eclectic cuisine from Fried Oyster Poor Boys, Bacon Wrapped Shrimp, Pulled Pork Horseshoes, Thai Chicken Wrap, Ribeye and Pork Chop Sandwiches, Blackened Salmon, Sushi, Gyros, and Flame Roasted Corn on the Cob, to fruit smoothies and gourmet desserts and specialty drinks. Participating restaurants include; American Harvest Eatery, Augie's Front Burner, Bennigan's Grill & Tavern, Bentoh's, Brickhouse Downtown, Café Brio, Café Moxo, Caitie Girl's, Coliseum Corner, Del's Popcorn Shop, Golden Frog Café, Holy Land Diner, Lake Pointe Grill, Maldaner's Restaurant, Maya Mexican Restaurant, Nick & Nino's, Robert's Seafood, Sebastian's Hideout, Starbucks, The Chuckwagon, The Spud Hut, and Z Bistro. Miller Lite, Craft Brews, and soft drinks will also be available for purchase. Menu items range from 1-6 tickets each; food and beverage tickets are \$1.00 each and may be purchased near each entrance gate and at the central ticket sales booth at 5th & Washington Streets.

The Miller Lite American Music Show will kick off Friday night, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. with Somebody's Daughter (Decatur); 7:00 p.m. – The Damwell Betters (Springfield); 8:00 p.m. -The Handcuffs (Chicago); 9:30 p.m. - The Detroit Cobras (Detroit); and continues on Saturday, July 9 at 3:00 p.m. with Moonlite Rhythm Rangers (Springfield); 4:30 p.m. - Tom Irwin and the Raouligans(Springfield); 5:30 p.m. - Lucky Patterson and the Wolf Crick Boys (Springfield); 7:00 p.m. - Mike and Ruthy (New York); 8:15 p.m. - Elizabeth Cook (Nashville); and 10:00 p.m. - Ike Reilly Assassination (Chicago).

Free children's activities and entertainment are sponsored by St. John's Hospital, Marine Bank, and Springfieldmoms.org, and include hands on activities, face painting, balloon art, and stage performances from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 9.

Admission is \$2 for adults and free for children twelve and under. This event is coordinated by Downtown Springfield, Inc., and sponsored by Isringhausen Imports, E & F Distributing (Miller Lite), Capitol Radio Group, St. John's Children's Hospital, Recycled Records, Marine Bank, Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, RSM McGladrey, Springfieldmoms.org, and many generous in-kind partners.

Make a night of it and stay downtown at one of the following hotels offering special event package rates which include two adult admissions and 20 food/beverage tickets: Hilton Springfield, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center, The State House Inn, and Carpenter Street Hotel. For complete Taste of Downtown and other "Get Away Package" specials visit the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau website at www.visit-springfieldillinois.com.

For general event information go to www.downtownspringfield.org or call 217-544-1723. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of shifts; volunteers receive an event t-shirt and food/beverage tickets. If interested in volunteering, please email TasteOfDowntown@yahoo.com.

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