Here comes the South Mountain Fair!

The 89th Annual South Mountain Fair will be held Aug. 16-20 at the South Mountain Fair Grounds in Arendtsville, Pa.

“The South Mountain Fair is a small fair that highlights the agriculture industry in the area,” said Joanne Irvine, a fair board member.

The fair has eight barns filled with farm animals including beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats and swine being judged throughout the week. The poultry exhibit is new this year,” Irvine said. “The youth (4H/FFA) livestock sale on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 9 a.m.

“Of course there’s the great fair carnival rides and games. There is also a hayride run by the South Mountain Antique Engine Association, cotton candy, funnel cakes and other sweet treats. The fair does not get its support from large, corporate sponsors. It is supported by ticket sales and fairground rentals during the rest of the year for other events.

Carriage House Inn hosts Civil War musical

Imagine if the Civil War had occurred in the 1960’s rather than the 1860’s and you will have an idea of what Gettysburg: The Musical is like. Col. Frank Sinatra sings “My Kind of Town.” Then there’s Buck Private Dean Martin who is one of the Stuebenville Shooters. “Not sharpshooting, just shootin’,” he says. “We like to drink a little bit.” Then there’s Sammy Davis, Jr. singing, “I’ve Got to Beat Meade.”

Gettysburg: The Musical is a fun, musical history lesson that will leave you knowing a little more about the Battle of Gettysburg. “I never enjoyed a history lesson so much,” one guest said after the show.

Gettysburg: The Musical is playing every Friday night at the Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg as a dinner theater. It is an original two-act show written by and starring Billy Finch, a celebrity impersonator from Silver Spring, Maryland. Finch impersonates Sinatra, Davis, Martin, Jack Nicholson, Johnny Cash, Rodney Dangerfield and more. Carol Finch plays female characters and, for one song, a Civil War general in drag. The costumes are fairly simple. Sinatra is dressed in a Civil War uniform, but he wears a fedora. “Union Jack” Nicholson wears dark sunglasses and a Civil War uniform. Some character changes just come from a change of expressions by Finch.

“We had wanted to do something to tie in with the 150th Civil War anniversary and this fit perfectly,” said Kristy Shriner, the Carriage House Inn’s marketing manager.

Finch has a repertoire of around 40 celebrities and he uses more than a dozen of them in the show. The songs are familiar tunes with new and unique lyrics about the Battle of Gettysburg. For instance, “Picket and Pettigrew” is sung to the tune of “Love and Marriage,” and “Gray Tide” is sung to the tune of “Rawhide.”

Shriner said the response to the dinner theater has been so good that it is definitely something they will do again. “This is something new and unique,” Shriner said. “It’s history and entertainment with a twist.”

Besides being a celebrity impersonator, Finch is also a history buff. Finch and his booking agent came up with the idea for the show and Finch contacted Bob Hance at the Carriage House in May. Hance said the show has been doing even better than he had expected it to.

Finch has been doing impersonations since he was in elementary school. “I’m doing right now what I did in the fourth grade,” Finch said. “It’s fun to be somebody else. You get to say things you wouldn’t normally say.”

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6 p.m. Tickets are $45 or $80 per couple. To reserve your seat at the show, call the Carriage House at 301-477-2366. For more information, visit carriagehouseinn.info or billyfinch.com.