

Oil Heritage Festival may look different this year, but the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to bringing the community a celebration that is safe and supports local business. Chamber President Susan Williams remarks: “We knew months ago this would be challenging, but it did not deter us from making every effort to plan for a successful event.”

With the low numbers of local COVID-19 cases, the financial support of many sponsors and the willingness of community partners and volunteers to coordinate modified events, proceeding with plans seemed like the right path, even a few weeks ago.

“Unfortunately, things have changed and not for the better. We see numbers of COVID-19 cases rising, the restrictions on businesses increasing and the division of community in regard to compliance,” Williams adds. “We have concerns about contributing in any way towards spreading the virus and our ability to enforce compliance of masks and distancing. With the advice of the Chamber's Board of Directors and the strong support of our festival partners, we have decided to make additional modifications and cancellations.”

The evening concerts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be moved inside, and live streamed. As details are confirmed, the Chamber will continue to update the schedule at [www.oilheritagefestival.com](http://www.oilheritagefestival.com) and will post updates on the Oil Heritage Festival Facebook page.

In addition to the evening concerts, the crowning of the Oil Heritage Festival Queen and the announcement of the Front Porch Contest winner will be announced via livestream.

The Hip and Handmade Craft Show, planned for Saturday and Sunday, will not be held. The Car and Motorcycle Cruise-In will be a Cruise-Through, in which participants are invited to drive through Oil City and stop in front of the Venango Museum, to receive a free T-Shirt and dash plaque and have their photo taken with their car, to be shared on the Oil Heritage Facebook page.

There are still several events planned, most coordinated by partner organizations. All event organizers have been urged to carefully consider their event and ability to be compliant, and to enforce their protocol. The Chamber will assist them in announcing any modifications or cancellations if changes occur between now and their scheduled event.

“We look forward to celebrating the Oil Heritage Festival every year--to promote our businesses, provide exposure to local entertainers and artists, and hold family friendly activities. All of those things will still happen next week,” Williams adds.