

# family fun

## free for all

### Touch a Truck

WESTERVILLE SPORTS COMPLEX, 325 N. CLEVELAND AVE. (614-901-6500, [WWW.VISITWESTERVILLE.ORG](http://WWW.VISITWESTERVILLE.ORG))

» Preschool-age children can have a close look at firetrucks, police cruisers and construction equipment.

**TIME** » 10 a.m. to noon Friday

### Riverfest on Tour

GENOA PARK, 303 W. BROAD ST. (614-228-2663, [WWW.RIVERFESTCOLUMBUS.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERFESTCOLUMBUS.ORG))

» Families can enjoy live music and hands-on activities and watch fire-twirlers before the event ends with a WaterFire display on the Scioto River. Food will be available.

**TIME** » 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday

### Movies in the Park

MOUNTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, 2140 FISCHINGER RD., UPPER ARLINGTON (614-583-5300, [WWW.UAOH.NET](http://WWW.UAOH.NET))

» The Upper Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation will present *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales Movie* on an outdoor screen. Visitors should take their own seating. In case of rain, call 614-583-5345 for updates.

**TIME** » 8:45 p.m. Friday; rain date: Saturday

### Leatherlips: Twin Clouds

SCIOTO PARK, 7377 RIVERSIDE DR., DUBLIN (614-410-4550, [WWW.DUBLIN.OH.US](http://WWW.DUBLIN.OH.US))

» Students from the three Dublin high schools will produce and perform a play about the Wyandot chief who strove for peace between settlers and American Indians. The performances will take place near the spot where Leatherlips was slain.

**TIME** » 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday

### Butterfly Hike

BUZZARD'S ROOST PICNIC AREA, SLATE RUN METROPARK, 1375 RT. 674 N., CANAL Winchester (614-508-8111, [WWW.METROPARKS.NET](http://WWW.METROPARKS.NET))

» During a walk through the prairie, visitors can use a net to capture and examine the insects.

**TIME** » 2 p.m. Sunday



## ONLINE CONTENT

For a broader schedule of events, visit [Dispatch.com/weekender](http://Dispatch.com/weekender).

# 19TH-CENTURY EXHIBIT OFFERS DOSE OF UNLIKELY CURES

BY KRISTINE GILL | THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH



SHARI LEWIS | DISPATCH

Ohio Village volunteer Nicole Waltermeyer, 15, gives tours.

## at a glance

### Uncommon Ohio: Good for What Ails You

OHIO VILLAGE, I-71 AND E. 17TH AVENUE (614-297-2300, [WWW.OHIOHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.OHIOHISTORY.ORG))

**TIME** » Tours from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, with hands-on activities from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

**ADMISSION** » Free with Ohio Historical Center admission of \$8, \$7 for senior citizens, \$4 for ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger

Perhaps most intriguing: the now-laughable claims of certain drugs and concoctions.

"Chemistry was very much a fledgling science at this point," Brouillette said. "They used trial and error. If something had a good or positive effect, they tried to repeat that. They didn't know if it was attributed to natural bodily healing or medicine."

Some "cures":

- Anemic people who needed more iron in their blood were told to cut a chunk of iron from a fence, soak it in red wine for a few weeks then drink the wine.

"I'm sure it didn't taste good," Brouillette said.

• Sufferers of lung ailments were sometimes given a Vapo-Cresolene inhaler. The medication that was vaporized contained creosote, created by burning coal and wood. Creosote is now considered harmful by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a probable carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

"If you were desperate for a cure, you would try anything," Brouillette said. "And that's pretty much the same today."

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In the late 1800s, people suffering from asthma might have been told by a pharmacist to smoke a special cigarette. For a headache, patients were given a tonic of alcohol and opium. And if a person felt droopy, a rented leech would suck out the bad blood.

Modern medicine has evolved from 19th-century techniques, as demonstrated by the Ohio Historical Society summer exhibit "Uncommon Ohio: Good for What Ails You."

Susan Brouillette, public programs manager for the center, said visitors "can see how far pharmacy has advanced for their benefit."

The exhibit goes along with the Echoes in Time Theater's presentation *We Are Coming Father Abr'am*. The 30-minute stage performance features an actor portraying a Civil War surgeon who tells of the sometimes-grotesque medical practices of the period.

"That's basically what Civil War medicine was: blood and guts," Brouillette said.

After the show at Town Hall in Ohio Village, visitors can tour the nearby pharmacy. Inside, they'll find authentic 19th-century cabinetry from a pharmacy in New England, its shelves lined with glass-blown bottles filled with powders and liquids from a pharmacy in New York.

The illegal substances have been emptied, although time probably had rendered them inert.

Visitors will learn of common medical practices and the role of the town pharmacist. They can participate in pill- and cork-making demonstrations using period tools.