The Museum of Regional History is preparing for its fifth annual Casino Royale Fundraiser. The event is held at Cross Creek Country Club, this year scheduled for Friday, Sept. 18. The evening will start at 6;30 p.m. featuring an open bar and heavy horderves bar, followed by the gaming from 7-10 p.m., with a red carpet rolled out for guests.

The event is one of the most significant fundraisers the museum does each year; with an open bar and night of gambling with money that you don't actually have to spend, it's easy to see why. A company comes in sets up several gaming tables such as roulette, craps and blackjack.

"Once again this year, we're working with a group of professionals who bring in professionally-trained dealers and croupiers. This isn't like we have volunteers running the tables, these are professionals," said museum Executive Director Matt Edwards. "People do things they would never do in real life; betting $100,000 is not something the average person is able to do, and that excites people," Edwards said. "We like to present a high-quality experience for our supporter," he said. Throughout the night a reverse raffle will be drawn with random winners of $100, and the last ticket drawn will win a $6,000 jack-pot. A cap of 300 tickets will be held for this portion of the night.

A silent auction will also be ongoing throughout the night with higher-end items such as vacation packages, electronics, a custom made quilt, Tour de' Mayberry basket featuring gift certificates to every restaurant on Main Street and many more items. "The fun is high stakes gambling with essentially free money. Who doesn't like going all in with $50,000 and knowing you're not going to lose a dime at the end of the night, except what you spend on the silent auction of course, " said Jessica Bolick, a museum board member.

Tickets to both the draw-down raffle and the fundraiser can be purchased seperately or together. The price for just the event is $65 per person, the price for both the raffle and the event is $150 dollars. The raffle can also be purchased alone for $100 dollars. "This is a critically important event for the museum," said Edwards. The net profit was nearly $26,000 last year. "It's a great date night for the average couple. I've never had anyone tell me it's not been fun," Edwards said.

Photos taken by Maggie Nicholson Photography.