

**September
2014 Issue**

Pumpkin Dispatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



**Save the Dates:
53rd Annual Pumpkin
Festival
October 22 – 26,
2014**

**Festival Committee
Meetings
7:00 p.m.
Sycamore Center**

**Use the Somonauk
Street entrance and
go down the back
staircase.**

**2014 Meetings:
October 15
November 19
December 17**

**Mandatory Vendor
Meeting:**

October 15, 2014

**2015 Meetings:
January 21 *
*Vendor meeting &
2015 Board elec-
tions**

**Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee
P.O. Box 262 Sycamore, IL 60178**

Parade Grand Marshal Announced

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee announces its 2014 Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade Grand Marshall, Sean Frazier, the Associate Vice-President and Director of Athletics at Northern Illinois University.



Sean Frazier brings vast experience as a Director of Athletics at three institutions and has spent the last six years in senior leadership roles at the University of Wisconsin, serving most recently as Deputy Director of Athletics for the Badgers' 23-sport program. A former football student-athlete at the University of Alabama, Frazier has 22 years of overall experience as a director of athletics at the NCAA Division I, II and III levels, as an administrator at two Division I universities, as a coach and as a student-athlete. Frazier takes over a Northern Illinois athletics program still riding a wave of momentum generated by the Huskie football team's historic appearance in the 2013 Discover Orange Bowl. Five NIU teams advanced to the finals of the Mid-American Conference Championships in 2012-13 and Huskie teams have won five MAC titles over the last two years. The Pumpkin Festival Committee is pleased that Sean has taken time out of his busy schedule to participate as Grand Marshal in our parade. NIU has long been a participant in this event, and we are honored to have their continued support of our festival, and of the Sycamore community.

Friend of the Festival Announced

The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee selected the Brian Bemis Automotive Group for this year's Friend of the festival.



The Brian Bemis Automotive Group has proudly served the Sycamore area since 1984, and this year is their 30th anniversary celebration. Brian Bemis Auto group has been involved with the parade supplying cars and drivers for the Pumpkin Festival Committee's Theme Winners, Grand Marshal, Friend of the Festival, and Wally Thurow "Mr. Pumpkin" over the years. Brian Bemis enjoys working with various community organizations throughout the year to support various causes. Whether they are hosting test drive fundraisers, providing scholarships to local high school seniors, sponsoring local golf outings, attending cruise nights, car shows, and participating in the Pumpkin Festival, Brian Bemis Auto Group is delighted to show their support to the community!

Congratulations to this year's Friend of the festival. The Pumpkin Festival Committee looks forward to their participation for many years to come.

Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade Lineup

The 53rd Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade Lineup is being finalized and it should be comparable to past years with over 100 units. There will be color guards, with police, fire and first responder units leading the parade as in the past, which is always popular with young children. You can come out and see this year's Theme Contest winners Hannah Sebby, Emma Winters, and Avery Huml; our Grand Marshall Sean Frazier; and the Friend of the Festival Brian Bemis Automotive Group. Many groups are returning again, with over 20 floats and 15 bands are expected as well as several musical entries.

2014 Schedule of Events

This is the 2014 Schedule of Events. Please let the PFC Committee know if there are any changes needed to the posted schedule for this year.

Saturday - October 18th

Ghost Stories in the Park with storyteller Phyllis Horst from 6p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Good Tymes Shelter - FREE - (all ages are welcome, snacks and hot chocolate available)

Wednesday - October 22ndth

Wally Tribute Statue unveiling - 4 p.m. at the SW corner of Somonauk and Elm

Pumpkin Check-in - Courthouse Lawn - 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Sycamore Lions**

Opening / Giant Cake Cutting Ceremony (Cake donated by Hy-Vee) North Maple Street adjacent to the Courthouse - 5 p.m.

Haunted Physics, NIU STEM Outreach - 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sycamore Museum of Natural History

Thursday - October 23rd

Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn

Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast - Methodist Church - 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Pumpkin Celebration - 7 p.m. at the Library (games, story time and treats for K thru 5th grade)

Friday - October 24th

Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn

Teen Carnival (Sacramento & State) & Kiddie Carnival (Somonauk & Elm) - 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. There are ride specials for \$25 (check for times at carnival)

United Methodist Church Craft Show (food served) - 160 Johnson Ave. - 11a.m. to 5:30p.m.

Saturday October 25th

Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn

Rotary Pancake Breakfast - Federated Church, 612 W. State Street - 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Autumn Craft & Treasures Market hosted by the Sycamore Music Boosters at the Sycamore High School - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

United Methodist Church Craft Show - 160 Johnson Ave. - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lions Club Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in - Courthouse Lawn 10 a.m.

Pumpkin 4-person Golf Scramble - Sycamore Golf Course, 940 E. State Street - 10 a.m. (Registration begins Oct 1st - 815-895-3884)

Historic Homes Walk - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets - \$25 per person, or \$40 for 2 people (children under 12 free). Tickets are available at the Sycamore History Museum, the Sycamore Chamber Office, Sweet Earth Jewelry, and at each home on the walk.

Teen Carnival (Sacramento & State) & Kiddie Carnival (Somonauk & Elm) - 11 a.m. to 10p.m. (\$25 ride special, check carnival for times)

The DeKalb County Shrine Club - pork chop sandwiches 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Saturday October 25th (continued)

Beef Burger Luncheon - Bethel Assembly of God Church - 131 West Elm St. - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sycamore Rugby Club - Pork Shanks (across from the courthouse) - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Basically Blue Grass Band - Noon to 3 p.m. at the Courthouse

Pumpkin Putt Mini Golf - 1p.m. to 4 p.m. (a fundraiser for the library, in the library). Tickets are \$10 per person, \$25 for a family.

South Shore Drill Team Performance - 2 p.m. in the 100 block of Somonauk Street. Sponsored by Kish-Health System, Hauser-Ross and ServiceMASTER

Kiwanis Pie Eating Contest - Courthouse Lawn 4 p.m.

Scary Stories in the Cemetery - Meet in the historic Elmwood Cemetery at the corner of Charles and Elmwood at 6p.m. Bring your own chairs, blankets and flashlights. Stories told by Sycamore Library staff and friends. Very scary, not for the very young (recommended for middle school and older). Please be respectful in the cemetery. FREE

Creepy Crawly Halloween Party - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Midwest Museum of Natural History (some admission fees may apply).

Sunday October 26th

Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn

Autumn Craft & Treasures Market hosted by the Sycamore Music Boosters at the Sycamore High School - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sycamore Chamber 10,000 Meter Road Run - 9:35 a.m. start at the Armory [Pumpkin Festival Run Website](#)

Teen Carnival (Sacramento & State) & Kiddie Carnival (Somonauk & Elm) - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (\$25 ride special, check carnival for times)

Beef Burger Luncheon - Bethel Assembly of God Church - 131 West Elm St. - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The DeKalb County Shrine Club - pork chop sandwiches 10 A.M. to 3 p.m.

Sycamore Rugby Club - Pork Shanks (across from the courthouse) - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Mary's Church Food Booth - Waterman & Somonauk St. - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Peter's Church Food Booth - 218 Somonauk St. - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pumpkin Festival Parade - Somonauk - Elm - California - State & Main Streets. Parade kicks off at 1 p.m. [Click Here for Parade](#) Page with Map



Join the Sycamore Community at the Wally Thurow Statue Unveiling

Join the Wally Thurow Tribute Committee, The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee, and the City of Sycamore to unveil the Wally Thurow statue on the corner of Somonauk and Elm at 4PM on Wednesday October 22nd.

Calling All Vendors

Mandatory Vendor Meeting October 15th in Council Chambers (2nd floor of the Sycamore Center)

1. Speakers :

- Food Safety — DeKalb County Health Department
- Electrical Safety — City of Sycamore Building & Engineering Representative
- Fire Safety — Sycamore Fire Department Representative
- Public Safety — Sycamore Police Department Representative

2. Review and distribution of Vendor Packets

3. General information

Help Wanted

The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee will be looking to fill vacant board positions for the upcoming term (2015-2018). Non-Profit participants of the festival may nominate someone from their organization to serve on the board.

The festival does not run itself, and without adequate staffing on the PFC board some activities may have to be curtailed due to the lack of staff to organize and run them. Please inquire within your organizations to see if any members would be willing to serve on the Pumpkin Festival Board.

Won't **YOU** please consider joining us? Contact one of the current committee members to find out more if you are interested.

2014 Board Members

President - Jerry Malmassari
Vice President - Bart Desch
Treasurer - Gary Crain
Recording Secretary - Marianne Vogel
Corresponding Secretary - Jerome Perez
Directors - Julie Brannon, Jennifer Diehl
Tom Whitaker, Traci Gardner,
Dan Gible and Julie Sgarlata
Legal Advisor - Jim Dombek
Police Advisor - Mike Anderson

2014 Committee Chairs

Banners/Property/Flags - Jerry Malmassari
Teen Carnival/Kiddie Carnival - Gary Crain
Historian - Jerry Malmassari
Information Booth - Jerry Malmassari
Newsletter/Website - Jerome Perez
Parade/Bands - Bart Desch, Julie Brannon,
Jerome Perez, Mike Anderson Tom Whitaker,
Traci Gardner, Julie Sgarlata
Permits/Health Dept. - Julie Brannon, Dan Gible
Port-a-Potties/Trash/Food Court - Bart Desch
Brochure/ Publicity - Marianne Vogel