

# Pumpkin disPatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



June 2009

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

**Save the Dates**  
**48th Annual Festival**  
**October 21–25**

**Festival Committee**  
**2009**  
**Meeting Schedule**

7:00 p.m.  
Sycamore Center  
Use the Somonauk Street  
entrance and go down  
the back staircase.

**July 15**  
**August 19**  
**September 16**  
**October 14 \***  
**November 18**  
**December 16**

**IMPORTANT**  
**Vendor Dates:**

**September 16**  
**Deadline for**  
**Vendor Application**

**\* October 14**  
**Mandatory**  
**Vendor**  
**Meeting**

**Deadline for**  
**Parade Entries**

**September 16**

## **Pumpkin Safari** **“Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!”**



**DeKalb County Courthouse May 20, 2009**  
**Pumpkin Fest Theme Announcement**

Cody Laird's winning theme for the 2009 Pumpkin Festival, **Pumpkin Safari**, was announced on May 20 in front of the DeKalb County Courthouse. Cody is a first-grader from South Prairie Elementary School. He was chosen from 146 entries representing Sycamore's elementary, middle, and home-schooled students. Cody selected the theme because he thought "...of all the different kinds of animals that could be made." For his winning entry, Cody received \$50, a commemorative plate, a traveling trophy with his name engraved on it, and \$100 for his school.

The honorable mentions were awarded to Erin Vandeburg, a seventh-grader at the Sycamore Middle School and Thomas Herrmann, a third-grader at St. Marys. They each won \$25 and a commemorative plate.

**This year's semi-finalists were:**

**North:** Eli Briscoe, Balin Farrell, Anna Robben, Allie Schmidt

**St. Mary's:** Emilio Arroyo, Elina Keswani, Elizabeth LaScala

**South Prairie:** Shannon Edwards, Ellie Lochbaum, Laramie O'Sullivan

**Southeast:** Steven Jamrog, Courtney Mulligan, Rosemary Nelson, Colton Novinsky

**Sycamore Home Schools:** Brennan D. Ladas

**Sycamore Middle School:** Julien Bueno, Emily Hansen

**West:** Nick Hurst, Nick McKay, Miranda Perri, Ali Taylor

*The Festival Committee wishes to thank all the students for submitting their entries. It is always an exciting and challenging process to determine just one winner from all the ingenious theme entries the students submit each year and a theme that has never been chosen in all the years of the theme contest.*

## **Pumpkin Fest Parade - New Policy**

Each year thousands of people enjoy the parade; it's always exciting to see how creatively people have decorated their floats based on the theme. Most of the entries keep to the theme, however, the Pumpkin Fest Committee has noticed in recent years how more parade entries are only promoting a business and not decorating with the theme in mind.

Beginning this year, the Committee wants all parade entries to incorporate the theme; this year it is **Pumpkin Safari**. Excluding the tow vehicle, all "...floats must be decorated to reflect the festival theme and provide entertainment value. Decorations must cover a major portion of the entry. As an example, at least half of each side must be decorated to provide entertainment value and reflect the theme of the festival. Entries not properly decorated will not be allowed to participate in the parade. Compliance will be determined by the Pumpkin Fest Parade Chairman prior to the start of the parade."

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

## Marlyn Burkart - 2009 Grand Marshall

The Pumpkin Fest Committee is pleased to announce Marlyn Burkart as this year's Grand Marshall for the 2009 Pumpkin Fest Parade. She is no stranger to Sycamore, northern Illinois, and the world! For countless years, Marlyn has devoted herself to providing youth and adults, boys and girls, from 10 -24 years old, the amazing opportunity of joining Marlyn's Majorettes, developing their skills in baton-twirling and the color guard, performing at regional sporting events such as the Bulls, White Sox, and Cubs games, and marching

downtown Chicago in the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Over the past several years, Marlyn has scheduled a baton-twirling competition in Sycamore to coincide with Pumpkin Fest. This event has helped draw people near and far to the Pumpkin Fest events who might not otherwise have come. The Committee wishes to publicly thank Marlyn in the best way we know how, by naming her the 2009 Grand Marshall.

## Sue & Denny Leifheit - 2009 Friends of the Festival

When Pumpkin Fest comes around, who hasn't dreamed of living on Somonauk Road and watching the parade from their front lawn! Sue and Denny Leifheit have been so lucky! They have lived on Somonauk Road for the past twenty-five years. Sue says, "For the last few years we have had the privilege of hosting the Band Judges on our front yard. They have such a tough job ranking the many fabulous bands that bring out the pride in their parents and

the smiles to the spectators. We're not just friends of the parade - we're fans!"

For their assistance, the Pumpkin Fest Committee has awarded Denny and Sue Leifheit the "Friend of the Festival" award for 2009.



### Calling All Vendors!



#### Application Fee

This year's permit fee stays at \$22, and the health inspection fee remains the same at \$40. Payment deadline is by **September 16**.

#### Need New Ideas?

Any vendors needing some new ideas, please contact Permit Co-Chairs Julie Brannon, 815-895-3157, or Jennifer Diehl, 815-895-4402.

#### Future Newsletters Going Green

In an effort to save money and paper, future newsletters will be available at the Pumpkin Fest website:

[www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com](http://www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com)

#### Pumpkin Fest Logo Items

Items with the Pumpkin Festival logo on them **NEED** to have Board approval **no later than the September 16 meeting!** Please contact President Jerome Perez prior to attending so he can accommodate your group on our agenda. *Thank you!*

#### Mandatory Vendor Meeting

**October 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

Just a reminder of the mandatory meeting at 7:00 p.m. on October 14 at the Sycamore Center, corner of State Street and Somonauk Road. Please use the Somonauk Road entrance, go down the hall to the back stairs and down to the lower level meeting room.

#### Vendor Contact Information

If you have received this newsletter for your organization and are no longer the contact person, please pass this on to your replacement and provide us with the new contact information. **Thank you!**

## 2009 Pumpkin Fest Contact Information

### Board

<b>President</b>	
Jerome Perez	815-899-2166
<b>Vice President</b>	
Bob O'Keefe	815-899-1319
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	
Melissa Turner	815-895-3473
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	
Kim Timmer	815-895-5110
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Rick Poe	815-895-2783

### Committee Chairs

<b>Banners</b>	- Jerry Malmassari
<b>Brochures</b>	- Kim Timmer
<b>Bus/Parking/Towing</b>	- Mike Liszka
<b>Carnival/Kiddie Carnival</b>	- Julie Brannon & Bart Desch
<b>Historian</b>	- Jerry Malmassari
<b>Information Booth</b>	- Jerome Perez
<b>Newsletter</b>	- Kate Storey
<b>Parade</b>	- Al John & Mike Anderson
<b>Permits</b>	- Jennifer Diehl & Julie Brannon
<b>Port-a-Potties</b>	- Bob O'Keefe
<b>Publicity</b>	- Melissa Turner
<b>Theme Contest</b>	- Jennifer Diehl
<b>Trash</b>	- Bob O'Keefe

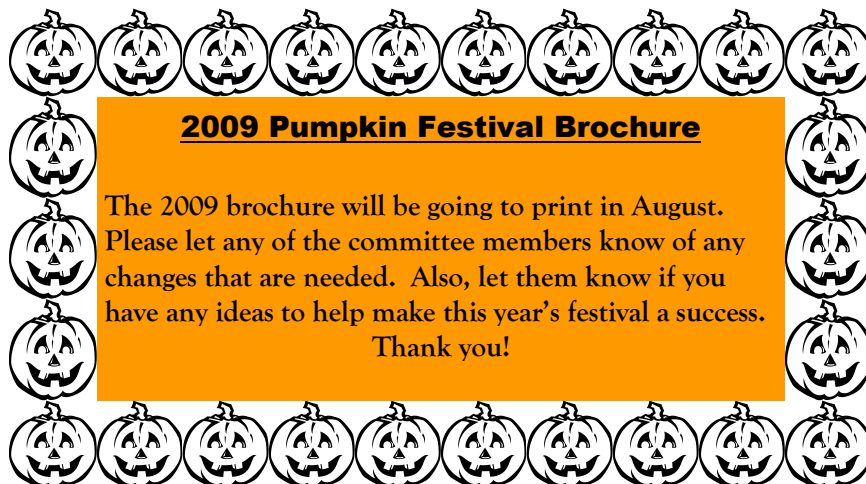
**Check website for additional phone numbers.**

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### **Neighborhood/Family Floats - No Fee** **Put Your Thinking Caps On!**

Where are you going to find a better deal? This is a wonderful opportunity for neighbors and families to collaborate on a float for the parade! This year all neighborhood & family float entry fees will be waived. Trophies and cash prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.





**2009 Pumpkin Festival Brochure**

The 2009 brochure will be going to print in August. Please let any of the committee members know of any changes that are needed. Also, let them know if you have any ideas to help make this year's festival a success.

Thank you!