

June 2010  
Issue

# Pumpkin Dispatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee

P.O. Box 262 Sycamore, IL 60178

**Save the Dates:**  
49th Annual Festival  
**October 27 – 31,**  
**2010**

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

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

## **2010 Meetings:**

July 21  
August 18  
September 15\*  
October 20\*  
November 17  
December 15

## **\*Important Vendor Dates:**

September 15  
Deadline for Vendor  
Application

**ALL vendor forms are  
on the PF website.**

October 20  
Mandatory  
Vendor Meeting

## **49th Pumpkin Festival Theme: Pumpkins Across America**



On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, this year's theme winner, **Courtney Voigt**, was announced. Courtney is a first grader at South Prairie School and for the second time in a row, a Cortland child was the theme winner! She received a plaque, \$50, her name added to the theme trophy, and the opportunity to ride in the Pumpkin Festival parade on October 31, 2010. Her school received \$100 for student programs.

Honorable mention awards went to **Cameron Godinsky**, *Pumpkin Picassos*, from Sycamore Middle School, and **Celia Carpenter**, *Pumpkin Enchantment*, from Southeast. They each received a plaque, \$25, and will ride in the parade too.

What a thrill for the children this year because **Mr. Pumpkin, Wally Thurow**, was in Sycamore to celebrate with them!

There were 262 theme entries this year. Jennifer Diehl, chair of the theme contest committee, said three entries were selected from each of the following schools: North Grove, West, North, Southeast, Middle School, South Prairie, and St. Mary's. There were no submissions this year from the home school group or Cornerstone. The committee narrowed the 262 entries down to the following 21 semi-finals; each student received a certificate:

**North:** Alexis Anderson, Ally Versluys, Nathan Flaherty

**North Grove:** Emily Davis, Aaron Jacobs, Blake Ross

**St. Mary's:** Matthew Cusumano, Kenneth Fleming, Paighton Welsh

**South Prairie:** Essie McMahon, Courtney Voigt, Ashlee Mecklenburg

**Southeast:** Celia Carpenter, Kelsey Mulligan, Laramie O'Sullivan

**Sycamore Middle School:** Lauren Coon, Cameron Smith, Cameron Godinsky

**West:** Nick McKay, Ben Crobbe, Aiden Gineman

## **No Bus Service in 2010**

In 2010 the Pumpkin Festival Committee will not be providing bus transportation as in years past due to increased costs and disappointing ridership over the last two years. In this economy the committee feels the money spent on bus transportation can be better utilized to promote the event.



# Grand Marshal:

The 2010 Grand Marshal of the Pumpkin Festival parade will be announced in the next issue of the *Pumpkin Dispatch*.

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***Cary with Jerome Perez, Pumpkin Fest President.***

One of Cary's most challenging and satisfying accomplishments as a Pumpkin Fest Committee volunteer was to split the staging areas into two separate locations, with bands staging east of Somonauk Road while the rest of the parade participants staging west of Somonauk. The idea was to keep band members close to their buses for loading and unloading purposes, which in turn lessened some of the congestion as participants came to the end of the parade route. Cary remembered playing the tuba and marching in several parades himself when he was a young boy, and as he saw the Pumpkin Fest parade growing, he saw young band members walking miles before even beginning the parade, then walking several more miles in order to return to their buses. Cary knew there had to be a way to lessen their fatigue. Thus began his volunteering to serve on the committee.

Cary has been a resident of Sycamore for the past 27 years and has been married to his lovely wife, Kay, for 28 years. He is very proud of his three grown children and one granddaughter, all living in Sycamore as well. Cary and his family love Sycamore and its community spirit. Pumpkin Fest is a very special time for Sycamore, bringing in thousands of visitors. Cary believes that it is our job as a community to welcome our visitors, ensuring they have a great time so that they will come again.

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## **Pumpkins Across America**

***Trophies for FLOAT & BAND Winners!***

***SEE WEBSITE FOR PARADE APPLICATION FORMS.***

***Although there will be no cash awards this year, enter a float and you may win a trophy in one of the following categories:***

- Best of Parade**
- Best Use of Theme**
- Crowd Pleaser**
- Non-Commercial (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place)**
- Organizations (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place)**
- Commercial (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place)**
- Family/Neighborhood (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place)**



***Numerous Band trophies will be awarded in four categories: Overall, Auxiliary, Drum Major, and Percussion.***

***Junior High awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.***

***High School awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (Class 1, 2, and 3)***

