

September 2009  
Issue

# Pumpkin Dispatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



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.

**September 16**  
**October 14 \***  
**November 18**  
**December 16**

**IMPORTANT  
Vendor Dates:**

**September 16**  
Deadline for  
Vendor Application

**\* October 14**  
Mandatory  
Vendor  
Meeting  
Go upstairs to  
Council Chambers

**Deadline for  
Parade Entries**

**September 16**

## *Cody Laird - Cortland's First Theme Winner*



Cody Laird - Cortland's Favorite Son

In all the years of the Pumpkin Festival, no theme winner has ever been from Cortland. Congratulations to Cody for being the first!

## Pumpkin Safari

The pumpkins are growing on the vines and pumpkin design ideas are swirling in the children's brains.

Beginning **October 21**, the Sycamore Lions Club will sponsor the 2009 Pumpkin Display on Sycamore's Courthouse Lawn. Thousands of local residents and out-of-town guests will flock there to "ooh" and "aaah" at the creative creations designed and sculpted by all ages.

### October 21

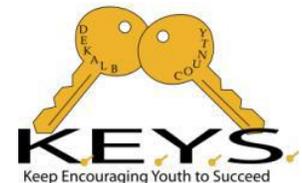
4:00 - 9:00 p.m. Decorated Pumpkins Check-in  
5:00 p.m. Cake Cutting Ceremony

### October 22 - 25

Decorated Pumpkins Displayed



## Pumpkin Fest Youth Partnership Award



Last year Ideal Industries decided to involve youth from the Sycamore School District Spartan REACH program to help design and build their float for the parade. It was a very positive experience for the young adults and the Ideal employees. That experience grew into an idea that became the *KEYS Pumpkin Fest Youth Partnership Award*. Information on this new contest and an application can be downloaded from the parade page of the Pumpkin Fest website at [www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com](http://www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com). For additional information, please contact Mary Hess, 815-756-9577, ext. 38.

Parade questions may be directed to Al John, Parade Chairman, 815-895-0421.

## 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.

For many 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 **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. Here are a few:



**Sweatshirts**

**Stuffed pretzels**

**Pizza-by-the-slice**



**Food items for band members returning from the parade - they will be hungry!**

#### Pumpkin Fest Logo Items

**September 16th meeting – Downstairs in Sycamore Center**

Items with the Pumpkin Festival logo on them **NEED** to have Board approval. Please bring a sample or drawing of the logo item to the meeting. *Thank you!*

#### Mandatory Vendor Meeting

**October 14 at 7:00 p.m. – Upstairs in Council Chambers**

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.

#### 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

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

Please check website for phone numbers.

### 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.



### 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.

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."