

September 2012
Issue

Pumpkin Dispatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



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

Save the Dates:
51st Annual Festival
October 24 – 28,
2012

51st Pumpkin Festival:
Happiness is the Perfect . . . Pumpkin

Festival Committee
7:00 p.m.
Sycamore Center

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

Meetings:

October 17*
November 21
December 19
January 16*

*Important Vendor
Date:

October 20
Mandatory
Vendor Meeting
January 16
Elections

**ALL vendor forms and
information is on the
PF website.**

Friend of the Festival : Denis Jagodzinski



The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee is pleased to announce Denis Jagodzinski as the 2012 Friend of the Festival.

Dennis was born and raised in northern Illinois. In fact the only time he left was to join the USAF, serving as a military policeman in Vietnam, the Philippines and Minot ND. He was discharged, lived and worked in Rockford, Illinois working for the Winnebago County Sheriffs Department. In 1979 Denis changed careers, joined American Family Insurance, and moved to Sycamore. Denis is married to Jill, and has two children, and two step children.

Denis enjoys being active in the community as a member of the Sycamore Sportsman's Club, Vietnow, VFW and Kiwanis. He is a past member of the Sycamore Jaycees and served as parade chairman in 1996 for the 35th parade.

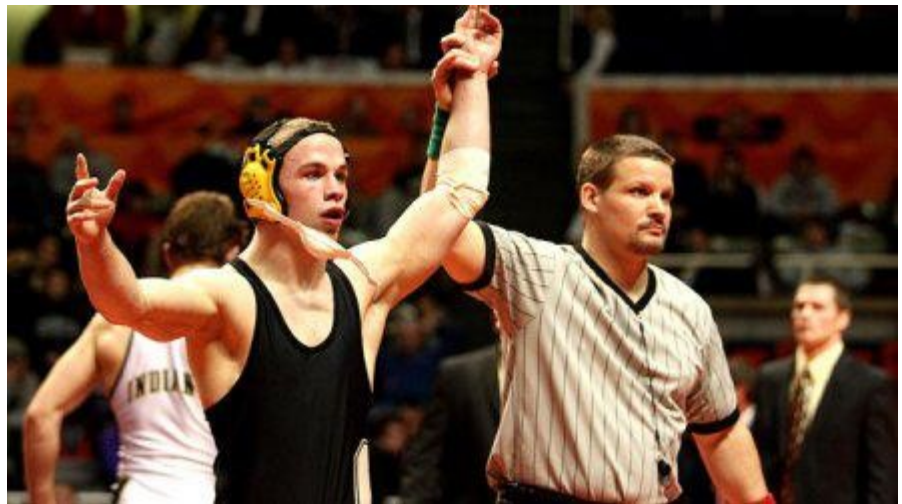
Denis's favorite part of the festival is simply the way the community gathers together to become one. "I really enjoy the kids, form the time they pick up pumpkins (which he has donated since 1986) until they are judged on the courthouse lawn", says Denis. "I love the crowds and a beautiful, sunny October day. When the parade kicks off, it feels like a home coming event - from the crowds gathering downtown where the community groups serve them - to the parties' homes host both on and off the route. I'm so proud of our community and the way the clubs, organizations and the people come together to make out Sycamore Pumpkin Festival".
It is truly the best event in all of Illinois.

Grand Marshall : Austin Culton

The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee is pleased to announce Austin Culton as the 2012 Parade Grand Marshall. Austin is the 2012 IHSA Class 2A State Wrestling Champion at 152 pounds from Sycamore High School. The Pumpkin Festival Committee is proud to be able to highlight one of its hometown sports champions during this Olympic Year.

Austin was born at Kishwaukee Hospital and has lived in the Sycamore area his whole life. His parents Randy and Dana, as well as his brother Kyle have supported Austin and contributed to his success at an early age. Austin is a senior at Sycamore High School. In addition to being a state champion in wrestling, he is an important contributor to the successful Spartan football team where he is a running back.

Austin began his wrestling career at a young age and was a 2 time IKWF state title holder in wrestling prior to High School. Austin is a big fan of sports, and even his hobbies are sports related. As a long time resident of the Sycamore area Austin has grown up with the Pumpkin Festival. One of his favorite activities during the festival is watching the parade. Now he will be given a chance to be part of it.



Let the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Begin!



Cake-cutting ceremony will be Wednesday, October 24, at 5:00 pm located on North Maple Street next to the Lions Food Trailer.

The cake is again generously donated by Brown's County Market, and everyone is invited.

Please come meet your committee, and help us kick off the 51st Sycamore Pumpkin Festival.

Calling All Vendors!

See website for information and forms ~ www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com

October 17, 2012 : Mandatory Vendor Meeting in Council Chambers (second floor of Sycamore Center)

1. **Speakers:**
Food safety—Christel Springmire, DeKalb County Health Dept.
Electrical safety—Dennis Winclawski, City of Sycamore Building & Engineering Dept.
Fire safety— Chief Pete Polarek and Assistant Chief Art Zern, Sycamore Fire Dept.
Public safety—Sergeant Mike Anderson, Sycamore Police Dept.
2. **Review and distribution of vendor packets**
3. **Vendor awards discussed: “Best Use of Theme” and “Silver Spatula”**



Pumpkin Fest Youth Partnership Award



This award was created in 2009 to formally recognize companies or organizations that actively involve youth as resources, demonstrate they value youth, provide adult role models and seek out the creative skills of young people in the Pumpkin Fest float-making process.

The Pumpkin Fest Committee and KEYS (Keep Encouraging Youth to Succeed) will be recognizing parade floats this year that have involved youth from community organizations in the project.

Board Members

President - Jerry Malmassari
Vice President - Bart Desch
Treasurer - Gary Crain
Recording Secretary - Jennifer Diehl
Corresponding Secretary - Jerome Perez
Directors - Julie Brannon,
K.O. Johnson
Marianne Vogel
Legal Advisor - Jim Dombek
Police Advisor - Mike Anderson

Committee Chairs

Banners/Property/Flags - Jerry Malmassari
Teen Carnival/Kiddie Carnival - Gary Crain
Historian - Jerry Malmassari
Information Booth - Jerry Malmassari
Newsletter - Jerome Perez
Parade/Bands - Bart Desch, Jerome Perez & Mike Anderson
Permits/Health Dept. - Julie Brannon
Port-a-Potties/Trash/Food Court - Bart Desch
Brochure - Marianne Vogel
Theme Contest - Jennifer Diehl

Please check website for email addresses and phone numbers.