

September
2013 Issue

Pumpkin Dispatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



Save the Dates:
**52nd Annual
Pumpkin Festival
October 23 – 27,
2013**

**Festival Commit-
tee Meetings**
7:00 p.m.
Sycamore Center

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

2013 Meetings:

October 16
November 20
December 18

**Mandatory Ven-
dor Meeting:**

October 16, 2013

2014 Meetings:

January 15*

***Vendor meeting
& 2013 Board
elections**

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 2013 Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade Grand Marshall, Brian Bickner, the Coach of the Kishwaukee YMCA / DeKalb County Swim Team.



Brian Bickner grew up in Sycamore enjoying the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival by entering the Lions Pumpkin Decorating Contest, watching the parade, and walking among all the street vendors. Now, as a member of the Sycamore Lions Club, he helps in organizing the pumpkin decorating contest, selling raffle tickets, and working the food trailer. However, he now considers the best part of Pumpkin Fest to be seeing his three daughters (Ava, Callie and Brooklyn) along with his wife (Amy) benefiting from all the great opportunities available at Pumpkin Festival.

After graduating from Sycamore High School, Brian spent some time coaching as an Assistant Coach with the Ann Arbor Swim Club Y in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He also worked with the University of Michigan's Football team during their 1992 and 1993 Rose Bowl years. Bickner returned from Ann Arbor nineteen years ago to coach the Kishwaukee YMCA / DeKalb County Swim Team (DCST). As a youth, he swam for DCST for eleven years which included qualifying for Nationals his last three years of high school.

While coaching for DCST, the team has grown from 67 swimmers in his first year to its current size of over 210 swimmers, girls and boys, ages 6 - 18. Forty-two of his former swimmers have received athletic scholarships to swim at the collegiate level. DCST has won 1 Combined Illinois / Missouri Area State Championship, 3 Boys Illinois / Missouri Area State Championships, 3 Girls Illinois / Missouri Area State Championships, 18 North Central Illinois Conference Team Championships, and 23 Illinois / Missouri Area State Age Group Team Championships. DCST has had 78 YMCA National Qualifiers, 3 National Champions in 7 events, 37 National All-Americans in 167 individual and 41 relay events, 119 Illinois / Missouri Area State Champions, and 1 Deaf Olympic Games Qualifier (3 Gold and 1 Bronze Medal in 2004 Deaf Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece).

2013 Schedule of Events

Saturday - October 19th

- Free pumpkin distribution for children by Dennis Jagodzinski at American Family Insurance, 116 W. State Street - 10 a.m.
- Ghost Stories in the Park - Start off your Halloween celebrations and come on out for an evening of scary fun! Phyllis Horst, local storyteller, will sing and tell stories of monsters, zombies, ghosts, and other creepy things. Bring something to sit on and someone to hug. Snacks and hot chocolate will be available. This program is suitable for all ages. FREE - 6 p.m. at the Sports Complex, 435 S. Airport Road

Wednesday - October 23th

- Pumpkin Check-in - Courthouse Lawn - 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sycamore Lions
- Opening / Giant Cake Cutting Ceremony on North Maple Street adjacent to the Courthouse - 5 p.m. (Cake donated by HyVee)

Thursday - October 24th

- Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn
- Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast - Methodist Church - 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Free Pumpkin Celebration at the Library - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Sycamore Library Youth Services Department hosts a celebration of all things Pumpkin! Children in kindergarten through 5th grade will enjoy a variety of games, Miss Megan's Pumpkin Storytime, and special treats. Stop in any time to celebrate Sycamore's Pumpkins.

Friday - October 25th

- Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn
- Teen Carnival (Sacramento & State) & Kiddie Carnival (Somonauk & Elm) - 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. (\$20 unlimited ride special from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)
- United Methodist Church Craft Show (food served) - 160 Johnson Ave. - 11a.m. to 5:30p.m.

Saturday October 26th

- Jesse White Tumblers perform in the 100 block of Somonauk Street - 2 p.m. followed by Istvan and his Imaginary Band at 3 p.m. Performances Sponsored by Hauser- Ross and the National Bank and Trust.
- Lions' Pumpkin Display - On the Courthouse Lawn
- Rotary Pancake Breakfast - Federated Church 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 (food served) - 160 Johnson Ave. - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Lions Club Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in - Courthouse Lawn 10 a.m.
- Sycamore Golf Club Scramble - Sycamore Golf Course - 10 a.m. (Entries close Thursday before).
- Historic Homes Walk - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets - \$20 each (under 12 free) are available at the Sycamore History Museum and at each home on the walk.
- Teen Carnival (Sacramento & State) & Kiddie Carnival (Somonauk & Elm) - 11 a.m. to 10p.m. (\$20 unlimited ride special from noon to 4 p.m.)
- The DeKalb County Shrine Club pork chop sandwiches 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
- Beef Burger Luncheon - Bethel Assembly of God Church - 131 West Elm St. - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Zombie Miniature Golf - 1p.m. to 5 p.m. (a fundraiser for the library, in the library). Tickets are \$10 per person, \$25 for a family. Tickets on sale now. Not recommended for those who frighten easily. All proceeds benefit the Sycamore Library.
- Kiwanis Pie Eating Contest Courthouse Lawn 4 p.m.

Saturday October 26th (cont)

- **Creepy Crawly Halloween Party - Midwest Museum of Natural History - 425 West State Street. 6-8 p.m. Test Drive your Halloween costumes as you trick-or-treat throughout the decorated Museum. Meet tarantula breeders, have your photo taken with our creepy crawly live critters, check out the grossology lab, and enjoy games, candy and prizes. Tickets are \$6/person for Museum members, \$8/person for non-members. For more information go to www.mmnh.org**
- **Scary Stories in the Cemetery - 6p.m. Meet in the historic Elmwood Cemetery at the corner of Charles and Elmwood at dusk. Bring your own chairs, blankets and flashlights. Stories told by Sycamore Library staff and friends. Very scary, not for the very young. Please be respectful in the cemetery. FREE**

Sunday October 27th

- **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 - Armory - 9:35 a.m. start Pumpkin Festival Run Website**
- **Teen Carnival (Sacramento & State) & Kiddie Carnival (Somonauk & Elm) - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (\$20 unlimited ride special from noon to 4 p.m.)**
- **Beef Burger Luncheon - Bethel Assembly of God Church - 131 West Elm St. - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **The DeKalb County Shrine Club pork chop sandwiches 10 A.M. to 3 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](#)**

Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade Lineup

The 52nd Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade Lineup has been finalized and it should be comparable to past years with a total of 108 units. There will be the two color guards, 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 Savanna Dean, Maxim Breidenbach, and Sophia Teran; our Grand Marshal Brian Bickner; and the Sycamore Park District representatives which is the Friend of the Festival this year. Returning non-float entries will be Auto Meters BIG-FOOT, classic tractors and a steam engine from the Northern Illinois Steam Power Club, the Barbed Wire Betty's, as well as a number of youth groups, dance companies and local sports organizations. There will be 20 floats in this year's parade including Ideal, Sycamore Class of 1973, the Sycamore Public Library, Kiwanis Junior Marshals and Conexion Comunidad which are always popular. Bands are down slightly with 12 bands this year due. Marlyn Majorettes & Majors Drum Corps will return again keeping their string of being in every Pumpkin Festival Parade going. As always, the first band will be our own Sycamore Spartan Marching Band, followed by Northern Illinois University. Other bands appearing this year will be 3 middle school bands (DeKalb, Eisenhower, and Sandwich), 7 high school bands (West Aurora, Indian Creek, Forreston, Central, and Somonauk) as well as as the popular DeKalb County Fossil Band.

New to the parade this year will be a Wells Fargo Stage Coach, Violinists from the Community School of the Art at NIU, and a 1984 AM General Military Cargo Truck - Troop Carrier from the Elgin AMVET's.

Calling All Vendors

Mandatory Vendor Meeting October 16th in Council Chambers (2nd floor of the Sycamore Center)

1. Speakers :

Food Safety – Christel Springmire, 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 is still looking to fill vacant board positions for the upcoming year. Non-Profit participants of the festival may nominate someone from their organization to serve on the board. The terms are for 3 years.

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.

2013 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
Legal Advisor - Jim Dombek
Police Advisor - Mike Anderson

2013 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
Permits/Health Dept. - Julie Brannon, Marianne Vogel
Port-a-Potties/Trash/Food Court - Bart Desch
Brochure/ Publicity - Marianne Vogel
Theme Contest - Jennifer Diehl