

September
2011

Pumpkin Dispatch

www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com



Save the Dates:
50th Annual Festival
October 26 – 30,
2011

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

“50 Fabulous Years of Pumpkins”

Bill Nicklas: Pumpkin Festival Grand Marshal

Festival Committee

7:00 p.m.
Sycamore Center

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

2011 Meetings:

October 19*
(*Mandatory vendor
meeting in Sycamore-
Council Chambers ~
use front staircase to
get to the 2nd floor)

November 16

December 21



Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee proudly announces Bill Nicklas, Sycamore's City Manager, as the Grand Marshal for this year's 50th Pumpkin Festival! The Committee has had the wonderful opportunity to work with Mr. Nicklas over the last eleven years and even when Sycamore's downtown area was under major construction, he never let that deter the festival operations. President of the Pumpkin Fest, Jerry Malmassari stated, "We want to express our humble appreciation to Bill and his staff for what they have done for the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival and the promotion of Sycamore."

Bill came from the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania area in 1970 to attend graduate school at NIU. Over the next ten years, he received two advanced degrees from NIU: a Masters and a Ph.D., each in American history. Before becoming Sycamore's City Manager in 1998, he was employed as a public administrator, attained the position of DeKalb's City Manager from 1992 - 1997, and before that pursued his passion for carpentry as a self-employed contractor for ten years. He married Joyce Steffa in January 1999, but sadly Joyce passed away in July 2009. As Sycamore's City Manager, Bill said, "I've been in a position to make sure the City's support services—public works, police and fire in particular—serve the Festival in a timely and thorough fashion. My team does most of the work; I just serve to keep the machine oiled and pulling in the same direction."

Bill says his favorite part of the Festival is the parade, but he also enjoys the cheer and goodwill that surrounds all the events and vendors. "Having a pork chop sandwich and a cup of apple cider while encountering old friends and acquaintances on the sidewalk or on the courthouse lawn are great stuff!" Bill believes that the Festival "...bespeaks community in every important respect, and our community's values. It's great to see people working collaboratively and making good things happen for young and old alike."

Friend of the Festival: Browns' County Market



Did you know it takes 3 - 5 gallons of Paul's frosting to ice and decorate the two - 4 feet by 8 feet cakes that Browns' County Market makes for the Pumpkin Festival's cake-cutting ceremony?

Here are some other fun facts from Dan Brown:

Mike Kingsbury, a supermarket operator back in the 80's and 90's came up with the idea to make a cake for the opening ceremony of Sycamore's Pumpkin Festival. After Mike closed his store, Pick N Save, Dan Brown's father decided to take the helm and that sure put a smile on his father's face! Dan relayed his father's quote, "Sonny boy, this is like having your cake and eating it too." Over the years, it has been a pleasure for Browns' County Market to design and produce the cakes. Kelly Roby has designed most of them with decorating assistance from Donna Freed, Robyn Schumaker, and others.

Probably the most challenging aspect of the cake operation comes after the decorating is done, because then there is the issue of transportation! Dan stated, "The answer to how to get two - 4 feet x 8 feet decorated cakes to the ceremony without a mishap is...**VERY CAREFULLY!**" He said, "We look forward to putting together this year's cake for such an exiting event and milestone year!"

October 26: Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Begins!

The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee has been planning some extra special events and "touches" this years for the BIG 50th Festival! The kick-off events, run by the Committee and the Sycamore Lions Club will begin on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, from 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm, rain or shine, on the front lawn of the DeKalb County Courthouse in Sycamore at the corner of Highways 23 and 64.



4:00 - 9:00 pm

Children can bring their decorated pumpkins to the Courthouse lawn to be checked in by the Sycamore Lions Club; they will be displayed through the end of the Festival.

5:00 pm

Cake-cutting ceremony begins. Through the generous donation of Browns' County Market, 700 delicious pieces of chocolate and white cake will be served to attendees. Five hundred mini anniversary flags designed by ABC Preschool, see above, will be given out at this event.



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. Information about this contest and an application can be downloaded from the parade link on the Pumpkin Festival website at www.sycamorepumpkinfestival.com.

October 19: Mandatory Vendor Meeting in Council Chambers

A very important vendor meeting will take place in the Sycamore Center on October 19 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. To access the Council Chambers, enter the Center from the Somonauk Street entrance and go up the stairs on the right. The following topics will be discussed:

1. **Speakers include:** DeKalb County Health Dept. will discuss food safety, City of Sycamore Building & Zoning Dept. will discuss electrical safety, Sycamore Fire Dept. will discuss fire safety, and Sycamore Police Dept. will speak about public safety.
2. **Review and distribution of vendor packets:** Julie Brannon and Kate Storey
3. **Two vendor awards will be discussed:** *Best Use of Theme* and *Silver Spatula*

Pumpkin Festival Weekend Highlights: Saturday, 10/29 & Sunday, 10/30

Boy Scout Troop 40 will coordinate a food drive to replenish the food supply in area food banks. They will be collecting nonperishable food items at their vendor booth in front of American Family Insurance, 116 West State Street, on Saturday and Sunday from 9am - 6:00 pm. Please help them with this important need!

DeKalb County Marines will be taking monetary donations for their "Toys for Tots" drive during Pumpkin Fest at their booth in front of P.J.'s Courthouse Tavern & Grille.

Sycamore Park District will be hosting an afternoon and evening of fun under the stars at the Sports Complex on Saturday. All ages are welcome to attend all events.

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| 3:30 pm | Pumpkin Olympics at the Good Tymes Shelter ~ Food and hot beverages available for sale. |
| 5:30 pm | <i>The Saturday June Band</i> ~ free concert |
| 7:30 pm | Fireworks |

Board Members

President - Jerry Malmassari
Vice President - Bart Desch
Treasurer - Rick Poe
Recording Secretary - Jerome Perez
Corresponding Secretary - Kate Storey
Directors:

Julie Brannon
Gary Crain
Jennifer Diehl
K.O. Johnson

Advisory - Wally Thurow
Police/City Representative - Mike Anderson
Legal Advisor - Jim Dombek

Committee Chairs

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