

# Great pumpkins visit Circleville

By Dustin Egan  
The Gazette Staff

Extra weigh-in joins rides, entertainment, parades for one of state's largest festivals

CIRCLEVILLE — Billed for years as The Greatest Free Show on Earth, the 10th Annual Circleville Pumpkin Show is set to fill the downtown street scene again with its traditional parade, nights and a smorgasbord of food, plenty of live music, a countless number of pumpkin pies, of course, 1,000-pound pumpkins.

The Circleville Pumpkin Show and continues through Oct. 26. The Circleville Pumpkin Show is the sixth-largest festival in the United States, with an annual attendance of more than 300,000. Anyone traveling on U.S. 22 during the event can attest to its popularity, as it's not uncommon to see traffic backed up along the exit ramps and down for right lanes of the highway trying to get into the downtown area.

Thursday begins with the pumpkin weigh-in and long parade weigh-in hosted by the Southern Ohio Giant Pumpkin Growers Association, followed by an evening performance by the Pumpkin Show Band and nationally famous country rockers McChaffey Lane.

Thursday's SOGGF event, which previously took place annually at the downtown location, is a special event from the Pumpkin Show's traditional giant pumpkin weigh-in, which begins at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday. Both events will be at Court and Main streets in Circleville. Spectators are invited to Wednesday's event are for the festival's traditional display at the downtown location.

Thursday's SOGGF event begins at 9 a.m. and is a registered weigh-in for the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth competition.

Tom Vanderpool, a Frankfurt resident and founding member of SOGGF, said he expects at least a half dozen large pumpkins for Thursday's weigh-in, some coming from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. He said 10 or more specimens from the Circleville area, each weighing at least 1,000 pounds, will compete for the first-place prize at the Wednesday event. The three heaviest pumpkins from Thursday's SOGGF weigh-in will be displayed near the Pumpkin Show's members at Wednesday's competition. SOGGF members will be present at the display throughout the week, selling seeds from giant pumpkins and providing interested to help first-time growers get started growing their own specimens for next year's weigh-in.



Officials prepare a pumpkin to be lifted from a pickup truck to be weighed during the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in at the 2008 Circleville Pumpkin Show. GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

### CIRCLEVILLE PUMPKIN SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

For a full schedule and history of the festival, visit [pumpkinshow.com](http://pumpkinshow.com). More information about the Southern Ohio Giant Pumpkin Growers is available at [soggf.com](http://soggf.com).

**WEDNESDAY**  
• The festival's opening ceremony begins at 9 a.m. Wednesday at Court and Main streets.  
• Get the South-Central live performance from the Circleville-Pickaway Visitors Pavilion where the Circleville Pumpkin Show Band will perform from 6 to 7 p.m.  
• The Little Miss Pumpkin Show Parade will march through the festival beginning at 3:30 p.m., and the Main Pumpkin Show Parade kicks off at 4 p.m.

**THURSDAY**  
• Dr. Leggett will share his art of growing giant pumpkins during a presentation from 11 to 11:45 a.m. at the Circleville-Pickaway Visitors Pavilion. The Fun Bunch Cloggers will perform from 2 to 2:45 p.m. at the same location, followed by a 4 p.m. performance from the Circleville High School jazz band, and students from the Graham School of Music dancing will take the stage from 6 to 6:45 p.m.  
• The Main Street Stage will host a performance from the YMCA Dance Academy at 12:30 p.m., live music from the Sterling Bluegrass Boys at 2 p.m. and classic rock from Mother Hubbard from 7 to 10:30 p.m.  
• Roy Adams will perform his pipe of stop music from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at the Pickaway-Franklin Street Stage, where the Logan Elm High School band will perform at 6:15 p.m., followed by the Northeast High School band at 7 p.m.  
• Thursday's street parades include the Baby Parade from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the Parade of Bands from 8 to 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY**  
• Several activities are scheduled throughout the day at the Circleville-Pickaway Visitors Pavilion, including a visit from the Columbus Zoo from noon to 12:45 p.m., a symphonic string demonstration at 1 p.m., a performance from the Teays River Cloggers at 5 p.m. and the Pumpkin Show Band will entertain at 6 p.m.  
• Performances on the Main Street Stage include live music from the Harvest Stage at 2 p.m., bluegrass and country music from Midtown at 4:30 p.m., country music from Simba Jordan at 6:30 p.m. and classic rock from Chillicothe's own Jaker Wild at 7 p.m.  
• The Pet Parade will entertain onlookers from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., and the Parade of Federal & Civic Organizations is from 8 to 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
• The festival's final day begins with the Circleville Pumpkin Show Classic Sale beginning at 9 a.m. at Circleville High School.  
• The Circleville-Pickaway Visitors Pavilion will host performances from the Roundtown Ringers Chorus Choir at 11 a.m., the Graham School of High Dancing at noon, a tribute to the late musician Ted Lewis by the Van Winters Remo and Quince at 1 p.m., the Pickaway Brass at 5 p.m., and the Adolph Community Band perform at 7 p.m.  
• Children 15 and younger can take part in a pumpkin pie eating contest slated from noon to 12:45 p.m. at the Main Street Stage, where youth and adults 16 and older can demonstrate their best top-calling during a contest from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Cooper Harmony Boys, a southern gospel quartet will take the stage from 7 to 8 p.m.  
• The Queen's Parade will travel the streets of Circleville at 8 p.m. to wrap up the festival.

**SOGGF Gig Show!** The Circleville pool tournament Oct. 27, live music from Theater www.soggf.com.  
• **First Capital Music Hall**, 4715 Second St., today opens mic night, live music from Good W! Show Saturday a night of comedy and music featuring The Spoons, The Redburn and Lori Graves & Friends, doors open at 7 p.m. Monday.  
• **Last Stage**, 2075 N. Bridge St., today through Saturday, live music and dance from Burner Star. Wednesday, ladies night and open jamboos.

• **Paint Grill**, 139 S. Point St., Saturday, Ohio State Buckeye tailgate party.  
• **Bub's Timeout Sports Bar**, 66 S. Park St., today, karaoke, Friday, comedy night featuring Bill Banks, 9 to 11 p.m., cover is \$5 at the door, advance tickets are available. Saturday, karaoke. Wednesday, live music from Ashley. For more information, call 740-851-4627.

• **Chief Tavern**, 281 S. Main St., today, pool tournament, sign-up is at 6:30 p.m., tournament starts at 7 p.m., entry fee is \$5.  
• **Parade Pub**, 201 S. Plaza Blvd., Thursday, open mic with Pete Roney, 8 p.m. Friday, live music from Frankie Thacker, Monday, karaoke, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Tuesday, acoustic night with Brad Day, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Shawnee Lane**, 1880 N. Bridge St., Sunday through Thursday, bowling is \$2 per game, 8 p.m. to noon, Friday, Thursday, get one free, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Alky, rent lanes by the hour from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Lanigan are forming now. For more information, call 740-773-3300. www.shawneelanes.com.

• **Rocky Lounge**, 805 Eastern Ave., Thursday, ladies night with D.J. Amber, Friday, D.J. John Maxwell, Saturday, live music from Stony Creek, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Shaggy Bar and Grill**, 15164 Pleasant Valley Road, Thursday, acoustic, Thursday, Wednesday, open jamboos.

• **Book at Water**, 8 E. Water St., Friday, D.J. Rocio, Tuesday, Local Pickers.  
• **Standard Tavern**, 3364 S. Bridge St., today, open stage, 8 to 11 p.m., sign-up is at 7 p.m.  
• **Barry's Place**, 193 S. Park St., Sunday, Howie Dog Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

• **Barry's Wheel**, 23 Star Drive, Wednesday, Howie Dog Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
• **The Hottel's Cafe and Saloon**, 833 Eastern Ave., Friday, Video Piny Hollywood, Saturday, live music from Good W! Show, Sunday, pool tournament, 6 p.m., Wednesday, ladies day, Open at 11 a.m., Monday through Saturday and noon Sunday.

• **Crosskeys Tavern**, 19 E. Main St., today, live music from the Goodtime Amateurs, 8 to 10:30 p.m., Friday, live music from Ben Cyrano and Rick Barnes, 8 to 8 p.m., and live music from Joe Rolin Porter from 9 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, 12:1 p.m., Wednesday, D.J. Jimmy Dale, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

**BAIRBRIDGE**  
• **Valley Bar**, 121 E. Main St., today, open jamboos, 9 p.m. to midnight, Sunday and Wednesday, pool tournament, 7:30 p.m., 15 entry fee.

**CIRCLEVILLE**  
• **Sober's Pumpkin Inn**, 117 E. Main St., Thursday, live music from Mike Boyle, Saturday and Monday, free jamboos.

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Mon, Mar 18,  
2019

