

Pumpkin fever to strike again this week in Circleville

THE GAZETTE STAFF

Next to the Fall Festival of Leaves in Bainbridge which wraps up today, the Circleville Pumpkin Festival is a top destination every autumn for local residents still looking to capture a last taste of outdoor festival fun before winter weather arrives.

The annual event that takes over a portion of Circleville's downtown returns Tuesday evening and runs through Saturday with all of the food, midway rides, pumpkin show judging, live entertainment and parades the show has become known for.

Things got warmed up from 5 to 10 p.m. Tuesday with a festival preview featuring concessions and rides, along with live music on two stages on the festival grounds.

The show hits full stride at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday with the Foresman Chimes performing at the courthouse, followed at 9 a.m. by the official opening ceremony at the corner of Court and Main streets. Throughout the festival's run, live entertainment will be on display at a Main Street Stage, the Circleville-Pickaway Visitors Pavilion and the Pickaway-Franklin Street Stage. Craft demonstrations also will be offered at 159 E. Franklin St.

Among some of the daily highlights are:

■ Wednesday — A 9:15 a.m. giant pumpkin weigh-in at Court and Main streets, a Little Miss Pumpkin Show parade at 3:30 p.m. and Miss Pumpkin Show parade at 8 p.m., a country music performance by Jimmy Hensley at 7 p.m. and a couple showings at 10 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. of The Pick of Ohio Video Showcase.

■ Thursday — A baby parade at 3:30 p.m. and parade of bands at 8 p.m.,

Irish dancing at 2 p.m., high school band concerts from 6 to 8 p.m., country performances by Ashley Everts at 5:45 p.m. and Simba Jordan at 7 p.m. and the classic rock of Mother Hubbard at 9 p.m.

■ Friday — A pet parade at 3:30 p.m. and parade of fraternal and civic organizations at 8 p.m., the classic rock of Rewind at 7 p.m., country live performers at 9 p.m., Our Ohio cooking demonstrations with Marilou Suszko at 4:30 p.m. and a Pumpkin Show Band concert at 6 p.m.

■ Saturday — A queen's parade at 8 p.m., the Circleville Pumpkin Show Classic five-mile run at 9 a.m., gospel quartet Side by Side at 7 p.m., the country sound of Jacked Up at 9 p.m., the Adelphi Community Band at 7 p.m., the Kingston Kickers at 11 a.m. and open mic karaoke at 5 and 9 p.m.

For a complete schedule for each day, visit www.pumpkinshow.com/schedule.

According to the Web site, the show's origins go back to 1903 when Circleville mayor George Haswell decided to host a small exhibit in front of his West Main Street home. Since pumpkins made up one of the primary decorations for the exhibit, it became known as the pumpkin show.

Over time, more involvement from area merchants helped the show grow until a permanent organization made up of volunteers formed to take over operations for an annual pumpkin show. In 1946, the nonprofit Circleville Pumpkin Show Inc. was formed.

The show's annual attendance over the multiple days is estimated at an average of 300,000 people by show organizers.

Clipped By:



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