

Ohio pumpkin lovers rejoice:

Circleville's annual Pumpkin Festival returns with full activities schedule

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With organizers expecting as many as 300,000 visitors during the 4-day run of the Circleville Pumpkin Festival, it has cemented its place as a top destination every autumn for regional residents 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 returned Tuesday evening and runs through Saturday with all the food, midway rides, pumpkin show judging, live entertainment and parades the show has become known for.

After a preview night Tuesday, the show hit full stride with a full day of activities Wednesday. 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 throughout the festival at 150 E. Franklin St.

■ **Today** — 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.; Our Ohio cooking demonstrations with Marliou Suszko at 4:30 p.m.; a Pumpkin Show Band concert at 6 p.m.; the classic rock of Rewind at 7 p.m.; and country live performers at 9 p.m.

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

According to the show's 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."



Gazette file photo

Officials prepare a pumpkin to be lifted off a trailer to be weighed during the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in at the 2008 Circleville Pumpkin Show.

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- **What:** Circleville Pumpkin Festival
- **When:** Through Saturday
- **Where:** Downtown Circleville
- **FYI:** For a complete schedule for each day, visit www.pumpkinshow.com/schedule.

More involvement from area merchants throughout the years 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 to coordinate activities.

VIDEO ONLINE 10TV's report on the giant pumpkin weigh-in www.NewarkAdvocate.com

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mathew5554

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