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## Firefighters preparing cake auction

By **DAVE LAVENDER**  
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LAURELVILLE – The Laurelville Volunteer Fireman's Association knows you can have your cake and sell it too.

Touted as the home of Ohio's most expensive cake auction, the Fireman's Old-Time Festival is full of family fun tonight through Saturday.

Laurelville Fire Chief Butch Valentine said the festival which began in the early 1900s has become the fire department's one and only fund raiser of the year mostly because the cake auction which has become somewhat famous for fetching high-price bids.

Valentine, who is also the festival auctioneer, said the bidding for the cakes began shooting skyward when local businesses got together to break each year's record.

Last year, Helen Barr's cake was bought by Salt Creek Valley Bank for \$1,000 while June Eveland's ice water fudge cake went for \$9,200. It was bought by the collective village business owners and residents.

Valentine said the money raised from the festival comes in handy for Laurelville's volunteer fire department, which covers four townships and 154 square miles.

Tonight's festivities begins with a fish fry at 5 p.m. followed by the opening of the midway at 6:30 p.m., the dedication and the Little Miss and Mr. Old Time Festival contest at 7:30 p.m. Bluegrass band Rockbottom begins at 9 p.m. at the Main Street stage.

The festival features midway rides by Double D Amusements and entertainment each night.

Saturday is chock full of contests and fun from the baby contest at 10 a.m. to the noon big wheel races and kiddie tractor pull at 2 p.m. The Adelphi Community Band plays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with the grand parade beginning at 6 p.m.

Square dancing with Silver Spur at 8 p.m. sets the stage for Ohio's most expensive cake auction. Last year, bidders purchased two cakes for a total of \$10,200.

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