

121st Annual Versailles Pumpkin Show Sept. 25 - 28

Supplement to The Versailles Republican Thursday, September 19, 2024
Sponsored by the Versailles Lions Club



Safe in the Harbor



Sunday Drive



Texas Star



Josh Wells



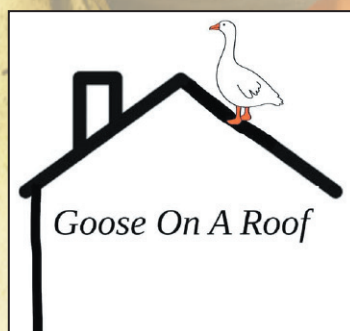
Faith Lafary



Rachel Holt



Jordan Dermody & Dermody Lane



Goose On A Roof



Battle on the Border Pro Wrestling



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2024 Pumpkin Show Schedule



WEDNESDAY

RIDES OPEN

5:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available at South Ripley, Jac-Cen-Del and Milan Schools, and at Versailles IGA, Ripley Publishing Company, Friendship State Bank, First Financial Bank and Civista Bank in Versailles.

No advance tickets will be sold after Wednesday morning, September 25.

OPENING CEREMONIES

6:00 p.m.

The Versailles Pumpkin Show will be opened with the National Anthem and an opening prayer.

LIVE MUSIC

Music by Faith Lafary

6:15 - 6:45 p.m.

KING & QUEEN CONTEST

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The annual King & Queen Contest will begin at 7:00 p.m. Contestants are from high schools in the area. Each school selects one senior girl and one senior boy in a manner of its own choosing.

First Financial Bank will present each contestant with a gift and the king and queen will be presented with a \$500 scholarship from the Versailles Lions Club and a \$1,000 scholarship from Ivy Tech. The Gooseberry Flower and Gift Shop will provide corsages for all of the queen contestants and a bouquet of roses for the queen. The Kings will receive boutonnières. Chozen Designs will give a special Pumpkin Show shirt to each contestant. Proud Moments will give a memento picture frame.

Cory Lanham will emcee the event.

The king & queen and their court will be asked to ride on the Lions Club float in formal attire at the head of the parade on Saturday morning.

All contestants are to meet at the Tyson Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m.

LIVE MUSIC

Rachel Holt

8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

RIDES OPEN

5:00 p.m.

WRISTBAND NIGHT

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

BAKING CONTEST RESULTS

5:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Just before the Princess & Prince Contest, Main Street Versailles will announce the winners of the Pumpkin Baking Contest.

All entries are to be brought to the Versailles Community Center, 126 North Main Street, Versailles, on Thursday, September 26 between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

The "Best Baker Award" will receive \$100 along with a commemorative plaque and an apron. The winners will be announced and awarded their prizes on stage Thursday evening and have their photo taken for the newspaper.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each category: Pumpkin Pies, Pumpkin Bread & Muffins; Pumpkin Cakes, Cupcakes and Cake Rolls; Pumpkin Cookies and Misc. Pumpkin Goodies.

The baking contest for kids is open to ages 8 to 17. Kids can enter any pumpkin goods including pies, cakes, breads and cookies, and misc. All categories will be judged together. The winner of this contest will receive: 1st place, \$25 cash and an apron; 2nd place, \$15 cash; and 3rd place, \$10 cash.

A bake sale will be held Thursday, September 26 in the Versailles Community Center from noon to 1 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit beautification and development efforts in Versailles.

PRINCE & PRINCESS CONTEST

7:00 p.m.

Ripley Publishing Company will be sponsoring the 60th annual Pumpkin Show Princess Contest and the 36th annual Prince Contest Thursday night at 7:00 p.m.

Each public and parochial grade school in Ripley County chooses a girl and boy in the first grade to enter the contest.

The evening will begin with a parade with a float carrying the contestants, led by the Versailles Police Department and the South Ripley Junior High band. The parade will

get underway at the Ripley Publishing Company office on Washington Street and will end at the stage on the square.

The contestants will be interviewed individually in front of the crowd by Rob Lafary, Sports Writer for the *Osgood Journal* and *The Versailles Republican*. They will be judged on their appearance and personality. He will be assisted by Amy Davidson, Advertising Manager for Ripley Publishing.

The contestants will also ride in the parade on Saturday morning.

34TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN SHOW PIE EATING CONTEST

Following the Prince and Princess Contest

Immediately following the Prince and Princess Contest, Ripley Publishing Company will hold the Annual Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest. Two students from Milan, South Ripley, Batesville, Jac-Cen-Del high schools and the Southeastern Career Center, will compete to see who can eat the most pumpkin pie in one minute without utensils! The pies are donated by Rolling Pin Catering.

\$50 will be presented to the boy and girl who can eat the most pie. Everyone will receive a coupon for a Blizzard from the Versailles Dairy Queen. Come out and cheer on the students from your school.

LIVE MUSIC

Josh Wells

8:15 - 9:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

RIDES OPEN

5:00 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC

Music by Mr. T's Mohawk

5:30-6:30 p.m.

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6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



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SATURDAY

LIVE MUSIC
Safe in the Harbor
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

ATTENTION PUMPKIN GROWERS

Pumpkin growers, bring your giant pumpkins to Gilpin Monuments on Saturday, September 28, between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Gilpin Monuments is located at 610 S. Adams Street, one block south of the stoplight, in Versailles. All pumpkins will be on a trailer and will follow the parade at the end. Pumpkins will be weighed at the stage, where 2 entries per family (household), but only one entry will be eligible for an award. 3) All shrink wrap or any other type of covering or wrapping on pumpkins must be removed from pumpkin immediately after arrival or it will be disqualified. 4) Chemical residues and soil must be cleaned from the pumpkin surface prior to arrival for the protection of lifters and spectators. 5) Each pumpkin must be sound, healthy and undamaged. 6) Entries must be free of rot, holes and/or cracks through to the interior of the cavity, chemical residues and serious soft spots. Cracks, holes and openings shall be free of any foreign material. 7) The judges will probe any crack, hole or holes and/or opening into the pumpkin which visually appears to extend into the interior cavity. A 36" by 1/16" probe will be used to probe any suspect cracks, openings or holes. Probe will be provided by the judge. 8) An opening where the probe meets no resistance into the interior cavity will disqualify the pumpkin from the competition. 9) The judges will supervise weighing and have the right to fully inspect all entries before the official weight is announced. Refusal to allow thorough inspection of the pumpkin will result in disqualification. 10) Pumpkins must clear the scale in sound condition in order for the weight to be official and to be eligible for prize money. 11) Length of the vine coming from the stem shall not exceed more than 1". 12) In the event of ties, prize money for that placing will be combined and split equally. 13) Pumpkins are to be on display before and during the weigh off for spectators to enjoy. 14) The decision of the judges is final.

HEAVIEST PUMPKIN PRIZES

	1st	2nd	3rd
Heaviest Pumpkin, Open Class	\$700	\$400	\$300
Heaviest Pumpkin Open Class Youth	\$200	\$100	\$75

NATIONAL ANTHEM

10:30 a.m. performed by Safe in the Harbor

PARADE

10:30 a.m.

The parade will begin on Tyson Street near the old Tyson School building. The route will turn left on Water Street, turn right on Washington, then turn left at the Versailles Baptist Church and continue as usual. Entries can be made by appearing on Saturday morning and picking up an entry card at parade headquarters by the Tyson Methodist Church. There will be no parking along the parade route after 2:00 a.m. The parade will be emceed by Jane Rogers and Rob Moorehead.

Marchers are asked to please hand out candy and not throw it into the crowd. Floats or marchers that violate this rule and are brought to the attention of the Lions Club will not be allowed to take part in future parades. We ask that you help the Lions Club protect the community children.

Due to an ever increasing number of parade entries and a decline in the amount of area we have to line up the parade, the Lions are asking that all entries limit themselves to no more than three cars, trucks, machinery, etc. The Lions appreciate your continued support and participation in the Versailles Pumpkin Show and thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

PARADE PRIZES

	1st	2nd
Best Float	\$200	
Youth Organization Float	\$80	\$40
Organization Floats	\$80	\$40
Religious Organization Floats	\$80	\$40
Agri-Business Floats	\$80	\$40
Business Floats	\$80	\$40

FACEPAINTING

by South Ripley Art club from the time of parade until early afternoon.

RIDES OPEN

11:30 a.m.

GIANT PUMPKIN WINNERS & AWARDS PRESENTED

12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Battle on the Border Pro Wrestling Event
1:15 - 3:15 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC

Jordan Dermody and Dermody Lane
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Drive
7:30 - 9:45 p.m.

PUMPKIN CHUNKIN CONTEST

South Ripley Science Class of Lindsey Hafft
5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE

Holdsworth Pavilion
Southern Ripley Ministerial Association
12:30 p.m.



EXHIBITS

Check out the new categories this year including the children under 12 category. The Lions Club building on the square will be open for viewing of the crafts after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and after the parade on Saturday. All items can be picked up after 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Entry rules and regulations

- All entries are free. No entries will be retained.
 - Positively all agricultural articles entered for competition under control of the Lions Club shall be removed no earlier than 3:30 p.m. Saturday.
 - The Lions Club will use every possible precaution for protection of all exhibits but will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
 - The executive committee reserves the right to interpret all rules and to decide any question arising therefrom.
- ATTENTION:**
- Exhibits of Home Arts, Flowers, and Baked and Canned Goods are to be brought in on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lions Club Building (formerly Spencer Tyson) on the courthouse square. Exhibits will be judged, then open to the public at 5:00 p.m. Exhibits in this department are released at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.
 - Contestants interfering with the judges before or while judging will forfeit their rights to prizes.
 - First prize will be a Blue Ribbon, second prize a red ribbon and third prize a white ribbon.
 - Prizes will be issued at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday for Home Arts. Upon presentation of this order by the treasurer, at the secretary's hand, the prizes will be paid in cash. Where there are exceptions, prizes will be mailed.
 - In case of a tie on an entry, prize is to be divided.
 - The Lions Club will endeavor to furnish entertainment and amusement for the benefit of the public and invites the public to the fullest privileges and enjoyment of the occasion, but should any accident or injuries to person or property occur, The Lions Club will in no way be responsible for any loss or damage that may be sustained by any person.



No parking fee! Large lot to help with parade day parking

Off street overflow parking has been arranged for those attending the Versailles Pumpkin Show on parade day Saturday, September 28.

A large grass lot has been made available by McGuire Leasing LLC. Turn south onto an unnamed street that goes to the Department of Child Services offices.

This large grass parking lot will hold a large number of cars/trucks for those wishing to attend the Pumpkin Show parade and are unable to find street parking.

The access entrance to this parking lot is halfway between Crossroads Restaurant and Quickpix Gas Station on US 50 on the west side of Versailles.

Signs will be posted to assist motorists in locating the entrance to this parking lot. Once patrons are parked they are asked to walk a short distance north to the John Paul Street junction with US 50 and cross at that location only.

Versailles Lions Club members are working with the Town of Versailles to have this parking lot well maintained. Parking at this location is free.

Also, keep in mind that street parking will be limited on the west side of Versailles on parade day because of the space needed to stage numerous float entries and to have parking available for out of town band buses.

FLOWER DEPARTMENT

	1st	2nd	3rd
Miniature Arrangement	\$15	\$10	\$5
Table Arrangement	\$15	\$10	\$5
House Plant	\$15	\$10	\$5
Single Bloom - Any Flower	\$15	\$10	\$5
Single Bloom - Rose	\$15	\$10	\$5

HOME ARTS AND CRAFTS

	1st	2nd	3rd
Crochet Piece	\$15	\$10	\$5
Crochet Afghan	\$15	\$10	\$5
Crochet Baby Afghan	\$15	\$10	\$5
Knit Piece	\$15	\$10	\$5
Knit Afghan	\$15	\$10	\$5
Knit Baby Afghan	\$15	\$10	\$5
Pieced Quilt Hand Quilted	\$15	\$10	\$5
Pieced Quilt Machine Quilted	\$15	\$10	\$5
Quilted Table Accents	\$15	\$10	\$5
Quilted Wall Hanging	\$15	\$10	\$5
Applied Quilt	\$15	\$10	\$5
Embroidered Quilt	\$15	\$10	\$5
Cross Stitch Quilt	\$15	\$10	\$5
Counted Cross Stitch Piece	\$15	\$10	\$5
Embroidered Piece	\$15	\$10	\$5
Handmade Clothing	\$15	\$10	\$5
Handmade Purse	\$15	\$10	\$5
Handmade Jewelry	\$15	\$10	\$5
Fall Decoration	\$15	\$10	\$5
Christmas Decoration	\$15	\$10	\$5
Doll Making & Clothes	\$15	\$10	\$5
Children Under 12 Craft	\$15	\$10	\$5
Miscellaneous Craft	\$15	\$10	\$5
Stained Glass & Woodworking	\$15	\$10	\$5
Best of Show	\$50		

BAKED & CANNED GOODS

Canned products must be in standard containers.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Baked Pumpkin Pie	\$15	\$10	\$5
Baked Pumpkin Product	\$15	\$10	\$5
Misc. Pumpkin Product	\$15	\$10	\$5
Loaf of Bread	\$15	\$10	\$5
Fancy Yeast Bread	\$15	\$10	\$5
Apple Pie	\$15	\$10	\$5
Dozen Assorted Cookies	\$15	\$10	\$5
Decorated Cake	\$15	\$10	\$5
Sponge or Angel Food Cake	\$15	\$10	\$5
Glass of Jelly	\$15	\$10	\$5
Glass of Jam	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Tomatoes	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Pickles	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Fruit	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Beans	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Vegetables	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Juice	\$15	\$10	\$5
Can of Salsa	\$15	\$10	\$5
Children Under 12 Misc. Baking	\$15	\$10	\$5

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Pumpkin Show Hours:
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Sunday 7am-5pm

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2024 Versailles Pumpkin Show Art Show at the Masonic Lodge

Sponsored by the Versailles Lions Club and Versailles-Osgood Delta Rho Chapter of Tri Kappa

Show Dates: September 26 - 28 (Open to public).

Eligibility: Any artist living within 100 miles of Versailles, Indiana.

Location: Masonic Lodge- 214 W. Tyson Street

Entry Forms: Entry forms are available at www.versaillespumpkin-show.com.

CATEGORIES:

Student: Kindergarten thru Grade 3, Grade 4 thru Grade 6 and Grade 7 thru Grade 8.

High School Categories: Portraits, Floral, Still Life, Landscape, Miscellaneous and Photography.

All student entries must be ready to hang and include name, address, phone number, school, grade and age.

ADULT:

Art Categories: Portraits, Floral, Still Life, Landscape, Ripley County Scenes, Animals, and Miscellaneous.

Photography Categories: Portraits, Floral, Animals, Ripley County Scenes, Landscape and Miscellaneous.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. ADULT: All entries must be framed and ready to hang.
2. Entries will be accepted at the Masonic Lodge on Tuesday, September 24 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
3. Artist may exhibit up to eight (8) works (space permitting). All entries will hang for the duration of the art exhibit.
4. Artists pick up their entries only on Saturday, September 28 between 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

PRIZES:

Monetary awards will be given by the Lions Club and Tri Kappa for Best of Show, People's Choice and first, second and third places. Tri Kappa will also give monetary awards.

CONTACT:

Barbara Eades
812-701-9238



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Past Pumpkin Show Queens & Kings

The queen contest was first held in 1950 and was sponsored by Gannon's Jewelry Store.

The contest has become a most important feature of the annual fall show, and is sponsored by the Versailles Lions Club. The first girl to be crowned queen of the Pumpkin Show was Charlene Ward of Osgood.

In 1951 Mary Simmermeyer of Batesville was selected by the judges and Viola Schmaltz of Versailles in 1952; Joan Meyer of Napoleon in 1953; Libby Ann Kohlmeier of Milan in 1954; Margaret Ann Flick of Holton in 1955; Sharon Kay Witkemper of Napoleon in 1956; Joan Stute of Milan in 1957; Sarah Hook of Osgood in 1958; Judith Elliott of Batesville High School in 1959; Pattie Cook of Milan in 1960; Ann Eaton of Versailles in 1961; Janet White of Jac-Cen-Del in 1962; Anita Thole of Jac-Cen-Del in 1963; Linda Mergenthal of Sunman in 1964; Brenda Back of Cross Plains in 1965; Gege Lattire of Sunman in 1966; Kim Clarkson of South Ripley in 1967; Reggie Tyree of Milan in 1968; Glenna Isaacs of South Ripley in 1969; Nancy Ryle of Milan in 1970; Kathie Maple of Batesville in 1971; Sandra Gutzwiller of Sunman in 1972; Karen Comer of Jac-Cen-Del in 1973; and Debbie Nedderman of Sunman in 1974; Kim Prarat of South Ripley in 1975; Diana Mohr of Waldron in 1976; Nancy Ridenour of Milan in 1977; Donna Speer of South Ripley in 1978; Lisa Rullman of South Dearborn in 1979; Gretchen Daily of South Ripley in 1980; Cathi Bear of Switzerland County in 1981; Amy Koons of Rising Sun, representing the Vocational School in 1982; Yvonne Newhart of Jac-Cen-Del in 1983; Rosemary Billman of Jac-Cen-Del in 1984; Kathy Metz of Greensburg High School in 1985; Lisa Green of the Southeastern Career Center in 1986; Jill Bloom of the Southeastern Career Center in 1987; Missy Smith of the Southeastern Career Center in 1988; Tina Chase of Switzerland County in 1989; Michelle Moll of Switzerland County High School in 1990; and Danielle Curtis representing the Southeastern Career Center in 1991; Kristi French of South Dearborn High School in 1992; Jolynda Gray of South Ripley High School in 1993; Spring Thomas of South Ripley High School in 1994; Krisha Wetzler of Jac-Cen-Del High School in 1995; Katie Riley of Switzerland County High School in 1996; Chrissy Copeland of South Ripley High School in 1997; Nicole Ahlrich of Jac-Cen-Del in 1998; Natasha Duke of Switzerland County High School in 1999; and Shannon Bowling of South Dearborn High School in 2000; April Asherman of South Ripley High School in 2001; Gina Decker of East Central High School in 2002; Kristi Adams of

South Ripley High School in 2003; Brianne Martin of Switzerland County High School in 2004; Bridgette Adams of South Ripley High School in 2005; Kaitlin Hughes of Jac-Cen-Del High School in 2006; Sally Adams of South Ripley High School in 2007; Jordan Vinup of Southeastern Career Center in 2008; Sara Niles of North Decatur High School in 2009; Emily Barrett of South Dearborn High School in 2010; Jessica Foster of South Ripley High School in 2011; Stacie Koger of Southeastern Career Center in 2012; Tara West of South Dearborn High School in 2013; Erin Gloyd of South Ripley High School in 2014; Kylie Middleton of East Central High School in 2015; Haleigh Reed of Oldenburg Academy in 2016; Tori Thomas of South Dearborn High School in 2017; and Mariah Day of Jac-Cen-Del High School in 2018.

Past Pumpkin Show kings are as follows: Daryle Rohrig of Milan High School in 1993; Eric Sheets of South Ripley High School in 1994; Mike Stewart of South Dearborn High School in 1995; Aaron Ertel of Batesville High School in 1996; Nathan Jones of Switzerland County High School in 1997; Danny Hamilton of South Ripley High School in 1998; Brett Ramer of Greensburg High School in 1999; Josh South of Switzerland County High School in 2000; Cody Buchanan of South Ripley High School in 2001; Eric Volz of Batesville High School in 2002; Chris Bultman of Jac-Cen-Del High School in 2003; Jesse Beckley of South Dearborn High School in 2004; Justin Dahline of South Dearborn High School in 2005; Tucker Brown of Jac-Cen-Del in 2006; Erik Demaree of South Ripley High School in 2007; Thomas Welch of South Ripley High School in 2008; Jacob Waldron of South Ripley High School in 2009; Andrew DeCilles of Oldenburg Academy in 2010; Thom Hoekzema of East Central High School in 2011; Luke Hountz of Cave Hill Christian Academy in 2012; Kerry Raab of South Dearborn High School in 2013; Tyler Wright of Cave Hill Christian Academy in 2014; Gabriel Clark of Southeastern Career Center in 2015; Josh Walston of Southeastern Career Center in 2016; Keegan Green of East Central High School in 2017; and Jared Tiemann of East Central High School in 2018. Sam Evans of South Ripley High School and Jessica Starkey of Milan High School were 2019 royalty. There was no Pumpkin Show in 2020 due to the Pandemic. Lanie Nicholson and Ben Miller, both of South Ripley High School were 2021 royalty. Colton Roth, Lawrenceburg and Avery Hammerle, Oldenburg, were King and Queen for 2022. Kaley Barnes of Lawrenceburg High School and Stone Wilhelm of East Central High School were crowned 2023 Royalty.

2024 Prince & Princess contestants named

The 2024 Prince and Princess contestants for the 121st Annual Versailles Pumpkin Show have been announced.

Batesville Primary School: Samantha (Sami) Sciutto, daughter of Paul and Stephanie Sciutto; and Lincoln Metcalf, son of Michael and Darci Metcalf.

Jac-Cen-Del Elementary School: Rowynn Moses, daughter of Johnny and Emilee Moses; and Liam Walter son of Alexander and Ja-

nine Walter.
Milan Elementary School: Harper Powell, daughter of Jared and Amanda Powell. Clifford Horstman, son of Mark and Tiffany Horstman.

South Ripley Elementary School: Addilynn Clift, daughter of Brandon and Ashley Clift; and Brayton Malcomb, son of Donovan and Audriana Malcomb.

St. Louis Elementary School: Eleanor Flaspohler,

daughter of Kyle and Shannon Flaspohler; and Jameson Munchel, son of Chris and Shannon Munchel.

Sunman Elementary School: Ainsley Hartman, daughter of Dylan & Jessica Gunter; and Jacob Focke, son of Gabe & Laura Focke.

St. Nicholas Elementary School: Adeline Riley, daughter of Jill and Marcus Riley; and Abe Eckstein, son of Jason and Kendra Eckstein.



Versailles IGA
wishing everyone a great time at the **Pumpkin Show** this year!
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2024 King & Queen candidates named

The 2024 King and Queen candidates for the 121st Annual Versailles Pumpkin Show have been announced.

Oldenburg Academy: Christian Mack and Josephine Wolfe.

Milan: Nathan Voss and Anna Herzog.

South Dearborn: Cadence Thompson and Isabel Pearson.

Jac-Cen-Del: Lance Snyder and Kelsey Borgman.

Switzerland County: Cooper Hon and Brianna Stow.

South Ripley: Chancie Volz and Ellie Lauber.

Rising Sun: Brody Morris and Hannah Kremer.

SE Career Center: Chris Arthur and Ashlynn Moorman.

East Central: DenZell Michael Wallace and Addison Reynolds.

Lawrenceburg: Nathan Parker and Anastasia Victoria Robbins.

Batesville: Jonathan Spreckelson and Veronica King.



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September 25-28
 Versailles Pumpkin Show,
 On the Square in Versailles



September 27-29
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September 28-29
 Batesville Kiwanis AppleFest,
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October 4-5
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History of the Versailles Pumpkin Show

(Written by the late Alan Smith)

The Versailles Pumpkin Show was the “Brain-Child” of Alfred F. Beer, early watchmaker and jeweler located on the west side of the Versailles square. Beer was Versailles’ first entrepreneur businessman, who after trying several advertising schemes, finally staged his successful October 14, 1899 “Pumpkin Show.”

To promote his jewelry store, Beer offered five prizes: first prize was a gold-filled watch, this was won by Geo W. Watkins for his 74 pound, 5 ounce pumpkin; second prize was given to Henry Stegemiller for a 68 pounder, Henry received a gravy ladle; third prize was won by Chris Thomas of Cross Plains with a 64 pound pumpkin, and he was awarded six silver teaspoons; Osgood’s Thomas Wilson took fourth with his 5 ft. 3 in. circumference pumpkin and he walked away with a fine clock; and ugliest pumpkin winner was Henry Ballman, his prize was a handsome violin. The Versailles Republican estimated that a crowd of between 800 and 1000 spectators attended the first show.

In 1903, hardware dealer Wm. Hunter sponsored a “Colt Show” the same day as the Pumpkin Show. This added to the crowd since horse day shows were very popular. At these shows anyone could bring in their old plug and try pawning it off on some unfortunate buyer.

At the 1905 show, Capt. C.C. Briant of Versailles won first prize with his 116 1/2 pound pumpkin. He was awarded with a gold Elgin watch. It is said that Capt. Briant, a Civil War veteran, pulled off all but the one blossom on his pumpkin vine and fed it milk through a rye straw.

In 1906, Hunter, “The Hardware Man”, filled a new manure spreader with straw and placed \$5.00 worth of coins in it and pulled it in the parade. This created a stir. This was the first year that fruit, vegetables, flowers, pie, cakes, corn, etc. was added to the list of entries.

As the years went by, the show grew and grew. All kinds of entertainment was featured at the fairs: balancing acts, tight rope, juggling, bicycle, singing groups, balloon ascensions and airplane rides. For many years the high school basketball team played their first game of the year on Saturday afternoon of the Pumpkin Show.

In the 1930’s a Saturday night dance was added. The dance was held in the old gym at Washington and Second North streets.

From 1940 through the World War II years, the Pumpkin Show was discontinued due to gas and other war effort rationing. If this hadn’t happened the show would be the oldest fair of this type in the State of Indiana. Aurora Farmers Fair has that title today as they continued during the war years. The show was also canceled in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic.

The first year for a Pumpkin Show Queen Contest was 1950. Each school in the county selected a queen candidate. Charlene Ward of Osgood was the first queen. She received a diamond studded watch from Jesse Gannon’s jewelry store in Greensburg.

In 1962, a Little Miss Princess Contest was sponsored by *The Versailles Republican*. It isn’t known what year the first parade was held, but pictures of floats can be found of parades in the early 1900’s. The American Legion sponsored a float at the end of World War I.

This is the 121st year for the Versailles Pumpkin Show which is now sponsored by the Versailles Lions Club.

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