

Plainville Pumpkin Fest returns with children's costume parade, carving contest, haunted house, more

Published: Thursday, 23 September 2021 11:21

@brianjohnsonBP

PLAINVILLE – The Plainville Pumpkin Fest is making a comeback Oct. 23, with a children's costume parade, a pumpkin carving contest, a haunted house and more family fun.

The Pumpkin Fest, which is free to enter, will be held, rain or shine, from 4 to 9 p.m. in downtown Plainville. In addition to the costume parade, haunted house and pumpkin carving, there will also be booths from local nonprofits and area businesses, food trucks, a magician and live entertainment. Proceeds will benefit the Plainville Community Fund with the Main Street Community Foundation, which awarded \$12,000 in local grants last year.



The 2019 Pumpkin Fest in Plainville. -Photo submitted by Kris Dargenio

Kris Dargenio, organizer, said she is excited to bring back Pumpkin Fest after it was canceled last year.

“We missed it last year, I’m sure everybody did,” she said. “A lot of people have been contacting us asking about it.”

Dargenio said people enjoy having a free, small-town festival to look forward to each year.

“It’s a family-friendly event with lots for the kids to do as they dress up and get excited for Halloween,” she said. “It’s also an opportunity for people to come to the center of town and see the restaurants and stores that we have here. All of the downtown businesses open up their storefronts; it’s great exposure. We also allow nonprofits to sign-up as vendors free of charge because we believe that our nonprofits are an important part of the fabric of our community.”

In 2019, Dargenio said, the Pumpkin Fest had 18 food trucks and 55 vendors. She said she is hoping to have as many, if not more, this year.

The Pumpkin Carving Contest is \$5. People can bring pre-carved pumpkins to display on the library lawn. Different categories for the contest will be posted on facebook.com/plainvillepumpkinfest leading up to the event. Winners will receive gift certificates to local area businesses.

Visitors will also be able to watch a magic show at the Parks & Recreation Building at 50 Whiting Street at 4 p.m.

The Children’s Costume Parade starts at 4:45 p.m.

“It’s always fun to see the kids and their parents dress up,” Dargenio said. “We have about 400 kids every year. It’s getting bigger and bigger. We’re hoping that the marching band from the Middle School of Plainville will join us this year.”

The Haunted House will also be back this year at the Masonic temple across from Valero at 67 E Main St.

Additional entertainment will be announced closer to the Pumpkin Fest.

Major sponsors for this year’s Pumpkin Festival include Mizzy Construction and Tilcon Connecticut.

New to this year, businesses can purchase pumpkin-shaped lawn signs to show their support for the Pumpkin Fest. Signs are \$100 and can be purchased by mailing a check to Kris Dargenio c/o Plainville PumpkinFest 16 Dewey Ave., Plainville, CT, 06062.

Shuttle buses will be running from Plainville High School to downtown Plainville and back throughout the event.

For more information, call Dargenio at 860-302-6627 or visit facebook.com/plainvillepumpkinfest or plainvillepumpkinfest.org.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.