

Fall Festival of Color Set for This Sunday

Large Craft Show, Live Entertainment and Food Stands in Commons Park

The cool temperatures and bright sunshine of autumn are back, signaling that it's time once again time for Fall Festival!

This Sunday, October 1, marks the Lake Mills Area Chamber of Commerce's Tenth Annual Fall Festival of Color. Rain or shine, the festival is scheduled to kick off in Commons Park at 9:00 a.m. and last until 3:00 p.m., offering a large variety of food, entertainment and crafts for to all enjoy. Admission to the fest is free.

"The craft show is just HUGE this year with 100 vendors and more coming in!" exclaimed Lake Mills Chamber Executive Director, Kate Anderson. With other area festivals being held during the first full weekend in October, many vendors are able to participate in Lake Mills' festival for the first time. Another feature that makes the Fall Festival so attractive to area residents and patrons is the all-day entertainment. "And, the vendors know," says Anderson, "we always have a large public turn out, so they like to sell at our festival."

Among this year's offerings, people will find a large variety of vendors selling homemade craft items, woodcarvings, garden art, and plenty of jewelry. Several vendors from Wednesday night's highly attended Farmer's Market will also be on hand to sell a variety of seasonal produce and fall items such as pumpkins, corn stalks, hay bales, mums, and honey. Non-profit vendors include the Rock Lake Improvement Association and St. Vincent de Paul, who will be selling holiday items.

The entertainment stage at the gazebo will be set in motion by local folk band, Borderlands, who will play from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and again from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Festivalgoers may remember the eclectic sounds of Borderlands from their summer appearance at the Lake Mills Art Festival.

At 11:00 a.m., Anderson Martial Arts Center will be doing a demonstration, followed by Lake Mills Junior Jazzercise.

At 12:00 noon, children and their parents will want to make their way to the gazebo park benches for an autumn/harvest-themed "Story Time". These readings, performed by employees of the L.D. Fargo Public Library, are anticipated to be a welcome break in the day and the start of a new tradition at Fall Festival.

In between the on-stage happenings, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is the Optimist Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Children of all ages are welcome to select from among the 300 freshly picked pumpkins to color and decorate, courtesy of the Lake Mills Optimist Club and local pumpkin growers, Aaron and Lois Johnson. This fun contest is known to bring out a crowd of a couple hundred children each year, with door prize drawings occurring throughout.

Re/Max Community Realty is again sponsoring a free bouncy house from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And, the day would not be complete without a hay wagon ride. This year's rides will be guided by area resident, Brian Getzoff.

“There will be no shortage of food this year”, says long-time Fall Festival Coordinator, Sue Wares. There are at least eight different non-profit organizations selling everything from walking tacos to apple cider. Popular favorites include caramel apples and baked goods, walking tacos, barbequed pork sandwiches, and brats.

For more information about the Fall Festival of Color, visit the chamber’s website at www.lakemills.org or call the chamber office at (920) 648-3585.