

Saginaw County Agricultural Society News

Supporting the Saginaw County Fair and Agriculture

Volume 1, Issue 5

September 2009

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the Saginaw County Ag Society will be Nov 2 at 7 pm. Board members will be elected and we are also voting on by-law changes. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the by-law changes.

Homemaker of the Year:

Judy Ziozios of Saginaw was Homemaker of the Year. Jeanne Pitt was runner up and Diane Ewald was third. Congratulations to all those who entered into Homemaker of the Year. It was sponsored by WSGW and Michigan Sugar.

Chili Cook-off:

The 21st annual Saginaw County Fair Chili cook-off was won by Steve Yntema of St. Charles with Billy Bob's Fine Chili. 2nd place was Vanessa Masters-Jun of Saginaw with Tri-City Midwestern Chili. 3rd place was Roger Murray of Saginaw with Laramie Buffalo Chili. It was sponsored by WSGW, Michigan Sugar and the Saginaw News.

Bossy Bingo:

New this year was the fun activity of Bossy Bingo. The cows all cooperated and awarded money to the following: Bev Newton, Hemlock; Tim Weisenberger, Chesaning; Francis Sloan, Oakley; Al Galloway, Tarneit, Australia; Marge Sloan, Lakeland, FL;

We would like to acquire a cow print canopy for next year. TSC had them last year but did not get them in this year.

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Fair Week

Wow, what a week!

The Board of Directors was faced with a dilemma this year. We had to make some changes to increase attendance and turn a profit on the fair. The choice was made to offer a one price admission to fair goers that would include admission, rides and the grandstand. We also offered a Wednesday special for senior citizens.

We received many comments both pro and con on this admission. The financial end of it was the telling story. We increased attendance this year in spite of a rain-out on Saturday.

We were able to have many of the local businesses step-up and help to sponsor the activities in the grandstand. Thanks again to Agnew Graphics, Ace Hardware, Board Street Pharmacy, Card Bros Equipment, Chesaning Recyclers, Community State Bank, Crop Production Services, Dorr Trucking, Douglas C Isles, CFP, CFM, (Merrill Lynch), Frankenmuth Credit Union, Gewirtz, Heritage Tire and Service Center, HJV, LaClair Sales, McDonald and Assoc, CPA's, Mel Ervin Ford, National City, Northwest Energy, Parshallburg Campers, Robert Burns Financial, Sloan's Septic Tank Service, Sovis Insurance Agency, State Farm - Howard Szaroletta, Stoddard's Mobile Homes, Tri County Citizen, Triple R Homes. They made the Grandstand Events possible. Thanks go to the grandstand sponsors. Thank these individuals for their support and be sure to patronize these businesses.

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We are still looking for e-mail addresses. Please pass this along to other members not on our list.

Contact us at saginawfair@yahoo.com

Grounds and Buildings Rental for Events

Contact Teresa at 989-845-2143 or
989-692-0451

Calendar of Events

October 3, 10, 17, & 24 - Work session for Santa's Village.

Santa's Village: Weekends Starting with Thanksgiving weekend.

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Friday night we had a great crowd and even had trouble finding enough parking spaces. That was a great problem to have. Saturday was not so nice of a day. We had over 3 inches of rain in the morning and a few flooded areas on the grounds. By 3 pm most of the water was gone and rides and activities were on again. Unfortunately we had to cancel the grandstand activities. Needless to say Saturday was not a good day for the gate.

We did make enough to make profit and pay the partial past due land payment with money left over. I would say that they change in admission went over well.

Santa's Village

Engine 1225 is ready to make its trip to Santa's Village and deliver young and old to enjoy the enchantment of the North Pole. Santa's Village will operate November 27, 28 & 29 (the weekend of Thanksgiving), December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, & 20. Two trains are scheduled each day to make the trip from Owosso to the Village.

Santa's Village is also open to anyone that does not wish to ride the train. Admission to the Village is \$ 9. Plan a visit to Santa's Village and create a special memory and tradition with the kids and grandkids. Santa's Village runs 10:30 to 7:30 each day.

Anyone interested in helping with Santa's village is welcomed to help set up each Saturday morning starting about 9 am until the start of Santa's Village. Help is needed with setting up Christmas trees, 'causing a snowstorm' (spreading the fake snow), putting up decorations, and stringing Christmas lights and other similar activities. The only requirement is a Holiday Spirit.

Help will also be needed during Santa's Village with different activities like: Letters to Santa, Cookie Decorating, and Kids' Crafts. Also help is needed to sweep the floors about 7:30 each day of the village and other cleaning chores.

SVAA Harvest Banquet

Plans are underway for the annual Harvest Banquet that the SVAA puts on. It is planned for September 26th at the Our Lady Hall. The cost will be \$ 100 per couple with lots of chances to win. Be sure to set aside time to attend this event. It is sure to be a fun evening.

Directors Nominated

The following are running for election to the Board of Directors in November.

Tom McDonagh. Tom was appointed to the board as a replacement for Ed Benkert. He owns McDonagh's Amusements

Dean Newton. Dean is currently the President of the Board of Directors. He is a truck driver for Cicinelli and Sons. He is a leader with the Westsiders 4-H.

Pennie Tomac. Pennie has served one term on the Board of Directors. She is a Brady 4-H leader, member of the Mid-Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association and operates Tomac Pumpkin Patch.

Louie Seamon. Louie is the Supt of the Hobbies Dept.

Billy Newton. Billy is a long time volunteer. He can usually be found in the grandstand area getting it ready for each day's event. He works for Bierlein Demolition and Environmental Company. He is a leader with the Westsiders 4-H club.

George Stolz. George is a 4-H leader for the Taymouth Trotters.

Eric Frahm. Eric is also a long time volunteer at the fair. He can usually be found in the livestock area. He is a leader for the Frankenmuth Patriots 4-H Club. He farms in the Frankenmuth area.

Help Needed

Help is needed to get ready for Santa's Village. Work sessions are set for Saturdays starting October 3 at 9 am. They want to work on a new layout for this year. The first Saturday they need to move cases to be stored. If anyone is interested in helping or has additional questions contact Dean or Bev Newton at 989-213-2950.

Thank You!!

Thank you to Carolyn Koski, Linda Thomas and Shirley Leach for volunteering to help in the office during fair week. They answered our request for help during fair week and with their help we were able to have someone in the office to answer the phone while the fair was going. Their help was extremely appreciated. Also thanks go to the other volunteers that helped man the office in the weeks prior to the fair.

River Restoration

They have been busy working on the Shiawassee River removing the damaged dam and replacing it with rock rapids. It also involved removing sand and silt. The fair was able to receive several loads of fill sand to be used for future projects.

Improvements:

Many improvements have taken place this year. Some of them may have been small but they all make the grounds and buildings nicer.

- SVAA installed ceiling fans. This will help keep the building more comfortable for Santa's Village.
- The parking lot was painted for handicap parking.
- New lights were installed in the grandstand area.
- Landscaping was done in the horse barn area.
- The water hydrants were repaired and updated.
- A horse wash rack was installed.
- We have new signs for the office and exhibit hall.
- Junior Livestock has a new hog and lamb scale thanks to donations from Frutchey Bean and Chesaning FFA.

Rabbit and Poultry Barn

Our next project is to erect a rabbit and poultry barn. As some of you may know we had about 8 inches of water in the rabbit and poultry tent when it rained on Saturday morning. Many of the cages were moved to get the animals out of the water.

A committee has been formed to start organizing fundraising and planning the building. We would like to have plans in place by the spring for this project. If anyone would like to be on this committee contact Francis Sloan or Jennifer Carman.

We are also looking for donations for this building. They are looking at about a 40' x 60' building. We have had a couple of builders volunteer to help with the building.

We have fill sand available to help bring up the grade for the building. Anyone interested in making a donation of money, materials or expertise please contact Francis Sloan at 989-277-7694.

Web Site

Our website has been sponsored this past year by Tomac Pumpkin Patch. Remember them if you need pumpkins or squash this fall. If anyone would like to sponsor it for the coming year please let us know.

Volunteers of the Year

Each year we have many volunteers that make everything possible at the fair and at Santa's Village. Each year we recognize individuals that go above and beyond volunteering their time and efforts to promote and operate the Fair and Santa's Village. This year we recognized two individuals. Jim Felix and Bob Elliot were recognized as Volunteers of the Year at the Volunteer Picnic. Both individuals spend many hours around the grounds and can be counted on to do what is needed.

We also would like to thank the rest of the volunteers that helped with the fair. We couldn't do it without you!

Livestock Scale for Sale

The former Junior Livestock Scale is available for sale. Please contact Francis Sloan at 989-277-7694 if you are interested.

Giant Pumpkin Corner

Featuring pumpkin of course



Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

2 cups cleaned pumpkin seeds
1 tablespoon melted butter or olive oil or vegetable oil
Salt

Spread cleaned pumpkin seeds on a cookie sheet. Pour 1 tablespoon of melted butter or oil over seeds and sprinkle with salt to taste. Bake in oven at 200°F until seeds are golden brown. Stir occasionally to toast evenly.

To make spiced pumpkin seeds: combine each cup of toasted seeds with 2 teaspoons vegetable oil. Sprinkle with 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon chili powder, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper and 1/4 teaspoon cumin and toss. Spread out on a baking sheet and bake 10 to 15 minutes longer. Cool and store in an airtight container. They are best when eaten fresh.

To clean pumpkin seeds: rinse the seeds in cold water and remove strings and pulp. Dry the cleaned seeds on a piece of cheesecloth or linen kitchen towel. (The seeds stick to paper toweling and cannot be removed without bits of paper sticking to them.)

There are naked seeded varieties of pumpkins that are very good for making pumpkin seeds as they do not have the hard, thick seed coats that most of the pumpkins and squashes have.