



morton, illinois

[www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org)  
[www.facebook.com/mortonpumpkinfestival](https://www.facebook.com/mortonpumpkinfestival)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



SEPTEMBER  
13-16

# Welcome to the 57th Annual Morton Pumpkin Festival!



The Village of Morton would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers, the staff at the Morton Area Chamber of Commerce, and our Police, Fire, and Public Works employees who make this event possible.

The dedication of these individuals makes this a great event each year!





415 W. Jefferson Street • Morton, IL 61550

Office: **309.263.2491**

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# WELCOME

Your Morton Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to the 57th Annual Morton Pumpkin Festival, “Farmin’ Pumpkins”! Thank you to LIBBY’S® Pumpkin for being the Festival’s lead sponsor once again! We’ve now been celebrating every September for 57 years since the first Festival in 1967. LIBBY’S® produces 85% of the world’s canned pumpkin, making Morton, Illinois the “Pumpkin Capital of the World” as declared by the Governor of Illinois in 1978.

In thanks to our 1,500 plus volunteers, who help us plan and host, your festival experience will be “a bumper crop of fun.” Make sure to stop by the Family Fun Patch and Local Spotlight in Church Square, across from Jefferson School, for family-friendly activities and to learn more about businesses in our Morton community and beyond. The Art & Craft Market will once again be hosted in the parking lot of Birchwood Park, near the softball fields. We have so many fun and exciting events taking place throughout the entire week, that we hope you and your family get involved with all the fun! With over 30 different events and experiences, there is definitely something for everyone!

As a Chamber of Commerce, we use the Festival as an opportunity to partner with member businesses, non-profits, youth and sports groups in the area to gather and give back to the community. Project Pumpkin is an endowment fund that provides access to the Festival for families in need. In order to continue the growth of this fund, we will be selling orange bandanas and an exclusive “Farmin’ Pumpkins” button at the Pumpkin Store. As you experience Festival you are supporting the Liz Meier Morton Pumpkin Festival Volunteer Giveback Fund project benefiting the community as a whole. Each year, a portion of the festival revenue, in conjunction with donations from local businesses, goes towards a community project chosen by the Pumpkin Festival Advisory Board. It is always an exciting time to see the improvements being made around town, and how it positively affects those that live here and in the surrounding area.

Regardless of whether you live here, work here, grew up here, or are visiting, we look forward to inviting everyone into Morton to harvest memories at the Morton Pumpkin Festival.

*Leigh Ann Brown*

Leigh Ann Brown  
Executive Director, Morton Chamber of Commerce



**Catch us on Facebook @mortonpumpkinfestival and Instagram @mortonpumpkinfestival for updates leading up to the Festival.**

**Remember to hashtag #FarminPumpkins**



**Be on the lookout for our Snapchat filter on Festival grounds.**







# 2023 CHAIRPERSONS



Eve Ackerman  
 Jim Ackerman  
 John Ackerman  
 Kadee Allenbaugh  
 Jacque Austin  
 Tracey Baughman  
 Rachel Berchtold  
 Weston Berchtold  
 Brian Card  
 Dawn Carius  
 Curt Carius  
 John Cirilli  
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 Jenna Grimm  
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 Susan Heath  
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 Cindy Honegger  
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 Whitney Menold  
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 Amanda Miller  
 Kevin Miller  
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 Lisa Moser  
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 Kaye Strauch  
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 Jeff SU  
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 JoLynn Weiler

Ryan Weiler  
 Alissa Williams  
 Kevin Wilson

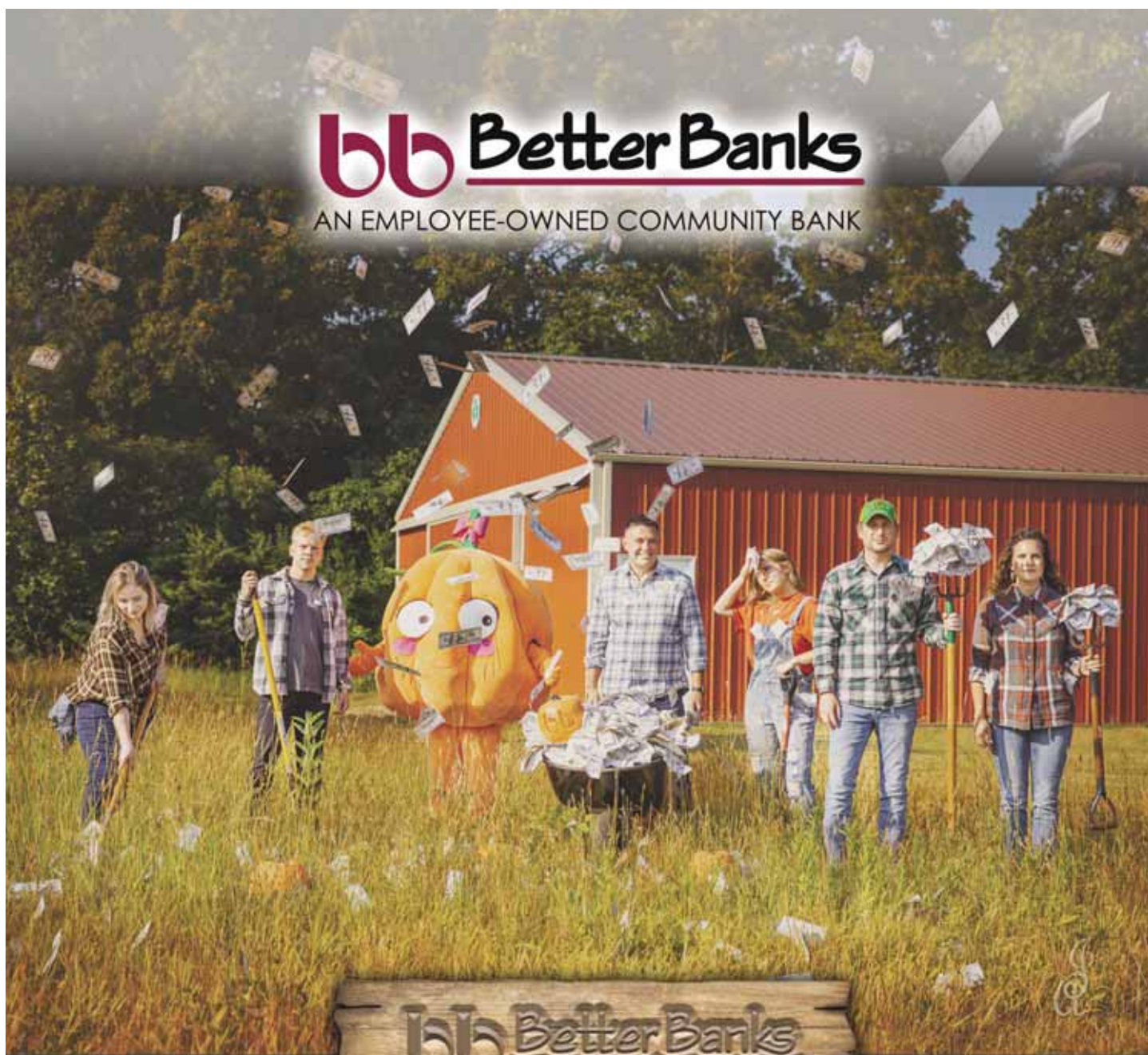
Beth Winstead  
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 Dave Zern







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## A TASTE OF OUR HISTORY

The story of LIBBY'S® Pumpkin starts in 1867, when The Libby McNeill & Libby Company (LM&L) was founded as a meat canning business. In 1923, LM&L decided to expand in to vegetable canning and purchased Dickinson & Company, a successful cannery in Morton, Washington, and Eureka, Illinois. As America discovered the many delicious ways to use pumpkin in their recipes, LM&L chose the city of Morton to expand their pumpkin business. The hard-working people, modern facilities and rich farmland led to Morton's official claim to fame as the "Pumpkin Capital of the World."

For more than 40 years, LIBBY'S® Pumpkin has been a proud member of the Nestle family and is honored to have contributed to the exceptional growth of Morton and its famous Pumpkin Festival. For decades, LIBBY'S® has been a main ingredient in sweet and seasonal recipe favorites. As people discover the nutritional benefits of pumpkin, a food that is high in vitamin A and a good source of fiber, they are finding new and creative ways to include it in their meals all year round. Visit [www.libbyspumpkin.com](http://www.libbyspumpkin.com) for delicious and nutritious recipes and to learn more about all that pumpkin can do!

**Be sure and stop by the LIBBY'S® booth on festival grounds in the Family Fun Patch!**



SPONSORED BY:



# THE GREAT PUMPKIN PIN SEARCH

The Great Pumpkin Pin Search is a long-standing tradition that has been around since 1978. This treasure hunt for the official Festival Pin will begin the countdown to the Festival's Opening Ceremony! Generations of Morton families look forward to this time honored tradition each year.

Beginning four weeks prior to the Festival, thought-provoking, clever clues to the whereabouts of the Pumpkin Pin will be released. The clues will be posted weekly on the Morton Pumpkin Festival's website ([www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org)), Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/mortonpumpkinfestival](http://www.facebook.com/mortonpumpkinfestival)), and on the door of the Morton Chamber of Commerce office (located at 415 W. Jefferson).

The 2023 Great Pumpkin Pin Search Clues will be released on the following dates at 5 pm:

## CLUE DATES:

Clue #1:	August 18	Clue #3:	September 1
Clue #2:	August 25	Clue #4:	September 8

Whoever finds the Pumpkin Pin must contact the Morton Chamber of Commerce office for verification. Once the Pin is found, an announcement will be posted on the Morton Pumpkin Festival's website, Facebook page, and on the door of the Chamber office. Until an announcement is made by the Chamber, participants are encouraged to maintain their search and not be swayed by others who claim to have found the Pin.

The Pin will be hidden in a non-dangerous location on PUBLIC property (it will not be hidden on private property). The Pin could be anywhere, indoors or outdoors, in the vicinity of Morton. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to search for the Pin. The person(s) who finds the Festival Pin will be awarded \$300 in Chamber Checks and recognized on the Pumpkin Festival stage on Thursday night, September 14.

## GREAT PUMPKIN PIN SEARCH TEASER CLUE

SOMETIMES JUST THE TEASER CAN BE ENOUGH  
IF YOU WAIT FOR THE FIRST CLUE, THE RIDE MAY BE ROUGH

NO NEED TO ENTER ANY INDOOR SPACES  
STAY PUBLIC THOUGH CHURCHES ARE HOLY PLACES

FARMIN' PUMPKINS WILL BE THESE CLUE WRITERS' LAST HARVEST  
FIFTEEN SEASONS OF CLUE WRITING, AND WE NEED A REST

MANY PAST YEARS HAVE BEEN WARM; MAYBE THIS YEAR A COOL ONE  
ESPECIALLY FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUMPKIN 5 K RUN

REFINE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF FARMIN' AND PUMPKIN,  
AND YOU WILL BE PROCLAIMED THE FINDER OF THE PIN!





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## Office on Main

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- 1 Pumpkin Sweet Shop
- 2 Pumpkin Grill & Pancake Breakfast
- 3 Libby's® Booth
- 4 Food Line Activities
- 5 Entertainment Stage
- 6 Carnival Rides
- 7 Pumpkin Weigh Off & Pumpkin Classic Post Race Party
- 8 Pumpkin Decorating
- 9 Big Wheel Race
- 10 Kiddie Parade
- 11 Art & Craft Market
- 12 Pumpkin Classic 10K & 2 Mile Run/Walk Starting Location
- 13 Pumpkin Store - Merchandise
- 14 Little Pumpkin Nursing & Changing Station
- 15 Pumpkin Drive Thru
- 16 Information Tent
- 17 Pre-Festival Pumpkin Store (Morton Chamber of Commerce)
- 18 Family Fun Patch
- 19 Local Spotlight
- 20 American Legion





# FESTIVAL MAP



- Parade Route
- Kiddie Parade Route
- Port-a-Potty
- CC Credit Cards Accepted
- ATM Automated Teller Machine
- TICKET Carnival Ticket Booth





# SCHEDULE of EVENTS

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8 am	Pumpkin Pickleball Tournament (Birchwood Park)
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## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

6 pm	Pumpkin Tennis Open Tournament (Joal Stanfield Tennis Complex)
------	---

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8 am	Pumpkin Tennis Open Tournament (Joal Stanfield Tennis Complex)
------	---

8 am - 11 am	Fishing Derby (Kennel Lake)
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10:30 am	Pumpkin Pedal (Bike Ride Launch from Better Banks)
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## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Window Decorating Judging	
---------------------------	--

3:30 pm - 6 pm	Pumpkin Decorating Drop Off (Family Fun Patch)
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4 pm - 5:30 pm	Pumpkin Weigh Off (parking lot across from PNC Bank on Jefferson St.)
----------------	---

6:30 pm	Big Wheel Race (on Washington St., between Main St. and Plum Ave.)
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## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

4 pm - 8 pm	Pumpkin Store Open (Merchandise Tent)
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4 pm - 8 pm	Family Fun Patch/Local Spotlight
-------------	----------------------------------

4 pm	Carnival Rides and Midway Open
------	--------------------------------

4:30 pm - 9 pm	Pumpkin Grill Open
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4:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Pumpkin Sweet Shop Open
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5 pm	Official Opening Ceremony (Stage)
------	-----------------------------------

5:15 pm	Entertainment (Stage)
---------	-----------------------

6 pm	Pumpkin Princess Pageant (Stage)
------	----------------------------------

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

6:30 am - 9 am	Pumpkin Drive-Thru Open: Donuts Only (Former Sam Leman Lot, 161 Detroit Ave.)
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Senior Appreciation Afternoon with Pumpkin Bingo (Sweet Shop)
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Free Pie and Coffee for Seniors
3 pm - 8 pm	Pumpkin Store Open (Merchandise Tent)
4 pm	Carnival Rides and Midway Open
4 pm - 7 pm	Pumpkin Drive-Thru Open (Former Sam Leman Lot, 161 Detroit Ave.)
4 pm - 8 pm	Family Fun Patch/Local Spotlight
4:15 pm	Entertainment (Stage)
4:30 pm - 9 pm	Pumpkin Grill Open
4:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Pumpkin Sweet Shop Open
6 pm - 6:30 pm	Kiddie Parade (Downtown) Character Meet & Greet at Family Fun Patch after Kiddie Parade

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:30 am - 9 am	Pumpkin Drive-Thru Open: Donuts Only (Former Sam Leman Lot, 161 Detroit Ave.)
11 am - 7 pm	Pumpkin Drive-Thru Open (Former Sam Leman Lot, 161 Detroit Ave.)
11 am - 9:30 pm	Pumpkin Grill Open
11 am - 9:30 pm	Pumpkin Sweet Shop Open
12 pm - 8 pm	Family Fun Patch/Local Spotlight
12 pm - 9 pm	Pumpkin Store Open (Merchandise Tent)
2:30 pm	Carnival Rides and Midway Open
3:30 pm - 7 pm	Art & Craft Market Open (Birchwood Park, 355 W. Birchwood St.)
5 pm	Nitsch Theater Arts (Stage)
5 pm - 7 pm	Pumpkin Classic Packet Pick Up (Lincoln Elementary School)
6 pm	Pumpkin Idol Jr. (Stage)
7:30 pm	Entertainment (Stage)

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:30 am - 10:30 am	Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast Grill
7:15 am - 7:30 am	Pumpkin Classic 10K/2Mile Run/Walk Begins
8 am - 6 pm	Art & Craft Market Open (Birchwood Park, 355 W. Birchwood St.)
8:15 am - 10:15 am	Entertainment (Stage)
10:30 am	Pumpkin Festival Parade
11 am - 7 pm	Pumpkin Drive-Thru Open (Former Sam Leman Lot, 161 Detroit Ave.)
12 pm	Carnival Rides and Midway Open
12 pm - 8 pm	Pumpkin Store Open (Merchandise Tent)
12 pm - 8 pm	Family Fun Patch/Local Spotlight
12 pm - 9 pm	Pumpkin Sweet Shop Open
12 pm - 9 pm	Pumpkin Grill Open
3 pm	Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest (Stage)
4:30 pm	Entertainment (Stage)

**Our thanks to the Village of Morton  
for supporting the  
Morton Pumpkin Festival!**



**[www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org)**

# ENTERTAINMENT STAGE

SPONSORED BY:



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

### OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

5 pm

### MHS SINGING GROUPS

5:15 pm

### PUMPKIN PRINCESS PAGEANT

6 pm

### GENTLE GORILLA

7:30 pm

Gentle Gorilla is a collective of musicians from the Morton area. For this year's Pumpkin Festival, Zack Davis, Andrew Hertenstein, Brandon Mooberry, Cortez Banks and special guest(s) come together to play some of their favorites to celebrate all things pumpkin.



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

### CENTRAL ILLINOIS BANJO CLUB

2:30 pm

The Central Illinois Banjo Club performs old and new tunes that are guaranteed to entertain everyone! This 50-member club has been an important part of the Pumpkin Festival for many years!



### STEVE HARGIS

4:15 pm

Steve Hargis is an award-winning country musician from Washington, Illinois.



### RECOGNITION/ ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

6:30 pm

Precious Baby Contest, Pumpkin Weigh-Off, Pumpkin Recipe Challenge, Pumpkin Window Decorating, Pumpkin Pin Search, Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Pumpkin Photography Contest, and Yard Art Contest.





## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

(continued)

### STILL SHINE

7:30 pm

Formed in the summer of 2014, Still Shine is a group of like-minded, seasoned musicians blending acoustic roots and progressive bluegrass. Mixing mandolin, harmonica, banjo, acoustic guitar, upright bass, and tight harmonies they quickly gained a following around Central Illinois area and the local Midwest. Along with some well received original music, the band performs an upbeat, energetic show you won't want to miss!



## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

### NITSCH THEATER ARTS

5 pm

It's Nitsch Theatre Arts with our Rising Stars & Singapella groups performing their Broadway Rocks showcase.



### PUMPKIN IDOL JR.

6 pm

Don't miss this singing competition for talented kids, ages 8 to 12!

### ROCKLAND ROAD

7:30 pm

Rockland Road is six musicians who share the last name Martin — representing four generations of musical heritage — all vocalists who among them play 23 different instruments. It is a powerhouse group featuring soulful vocals imbued with a pure, exuberant joy worthy of the talented blood that flows through this family's veins. Rockland Road sees every night spent onstage not just as a time to spread the joy they get from music or as a chance to share their story. Every night is an opportunity to take a new audience on a musical experience they won't soon forget.



HEADLINER PERFORMANCE SPONSOR:



Thank you to Potter's Alley for  
sponsoring the Grand Entrance



# ENTERTAINMENT STAGE

(continued)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

## **INNOVATIVE FAITH SERVICE**

### **ADAM MOSER**

**8:15 am**

Adam and Kelli Moser are the directors of Innovative Faith Ministries. They have a passion to equip God's people by focusing on making the complex simple and the supernatural natural. They speak at churches, conferences, small groups and more in Central Illinois and beyond. Visit [www.innovativefaith.life](http://www.innovativefaith.life) to connect with them and find out more information.



## **KADEE ALLEN & GUEST**

**8:30 am**

Mixing her roots in contemporary Christian music with a country flair, worship leader, musician, and singer/songwriter, Kadee Allen, has recently signed and recorded with a label in Nashville, Tennessee. For years, Kadee has been part of numerous worship bands and musical collaborations across the Midwest, Tennessee, and Colorado. Kadee will be releasing her debut EP entitled "You Are Worthy" on all streaming platforms this year! You can book Kadee either by email [info@kadeeallenmusic.com](mailto:info@kadeeallenmusic.com) or on her website [www.kadeeallenmusic.com](http://www.kadeeallenmusic.com). To keep up to date with upcoming music and video releases, travels, and more, you can follow Kadee on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, and Spotify @kadeeallenmusic.



## **PUMPKIN PIE EATING CONTEST**

**3 pm**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

(continued)

## **CAPTIVATION DANCE**

**4:30 pm**

Captivation Dance is proud to bring quality technical dance training to Morton, IL this fall with a variety of classes ranging in ages and styles. This year, Captivation has made big changes! With a newly renovated third studio we now have triple the floor space. We have also done a complete update of our studio wide curriculum to support our dancers at every age in every style. We can't wait to see you this fall!



## **PUMPKINS GOT TALENT**

**7 pm**

Showcase your talent! Pumpkin's Got Talent is an opportunity for people of all ages to show the Morton Pumpkin Festival what they can do! Perform alone or with a group. Let's close out the Pumpkin Festival week by highlighting all of the fun and unique talent the community has to offer!



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# PUMPKIN FOOD VENUES



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
1,700 lbs of Libby's  
Pumpkin is consumed  
at the Morton Pumpkin  
Festival each year!



## PUMPKIN PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast, hosted by Tazewell County Resource Center, is a beloved tradition at the Morton Pumpkin Festival. This breakfast serves thousands each year at the Pumpkin Grill on the Saturday of Festival from 6:30 am to 10:30 am. Our famous Pumpkin Pancakes are served with Alwan & Son's Meat Co. breakfast sausage and may be enjoyed with milk, juice or coffee.

Breakfast is \$8.50 per meal.

Learn more at [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-pancake-breakfast](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-pancake-breakfast).

The Pumpkin Sweet Shop will be open from 6 am – 11 am on Saturday for those hungry for a pumpkin donut and coffee.



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Located on Festival grounds

## PUMPKIN GRILL MENU

HOURS:

Wednesday & Thursday: 4:30 – 9 pm;

Friday: 11 am – 9:30 pm; Saturday: 12 – 9 pm

Pork Chop Sandwich • Ribeye Sandwich • Baked Potato  
Bratwurst • Hot Dog

Pumpkin Chili • Pumpkin Cornbread • Pasta Salad  
Nachos • Chips • Pumpkin Pie • Pumpkin Donut • Pumpkin Cupcake

Soft Drinks • Apple Juice • Gatorade • Bottled Water • Milk • Coffee

\*While supplies last.



SPONSORED BY:



Located on Festival grounds

## PUMPKIN SWEET SHOP MENU

HOURS:

Wednesday & Thursday: 4:30 – 9:30 pm;

Friday: 11 am – 9:30 pm; Saturday: 12 – 9 pm

Pumpkin Ice Cream Cup/Quart • Pumpkin Caramel Shake  
Pumpkin Sundae • Pumpkin Pie • Pumpkin Donut

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookie • Pumpkin Cupcake • Pumpkin Bars

Soft Drinks • Gatorade • Bottled Water • Milk • Coffee

\*While supplies last.



SPONSORED BY:



Located at the Former Sam Leman, 161 Detroit Ave.

## PUMPKIN DRIVE-THRU MENU

HOURS:

Thursday & Friday, 6:30 am – 9 am: Donuts Only

\*While supplies last

Thursday: 4 – 7 pm; Friday: 4 – 7 pm

Saturday: 11 am – 7 pm

Pork Chop Sandwich • Bratwurst • Chips • Pasta Salad  
Pumpkin Pie • Pumpkin Donut • Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookie  
Pumpkin Cupcake • Pumpkin Bars • Pumpkin Ice Cream Cup/Quart

Thank you to Sun Collectors for sponsoring this  
year's Food Line Activities!



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# FAMILY FUN PATCH

**Location:** Church Square, 225 E. Jefferson St.

**LOCAL SPOTLIGHT**, see page 44

**YARD ART**, sponsored by Morton Fine Arts Association

**THE UNIQUE TWIST BALLOON ART**

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**LIBBY'S® TENT**, Stop by and visit with local and corporate Libby's® employees!

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**I3 BROADBAND TENT**

**PUMPKIN DECORATING TENT**

**FANCY GIRL**, Hair Tinsel, Hair Feathers, Body Glitter Tattoos, and more!

For more information visit <https://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/family-zone>

**HOSTED BY:**



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**The Little Pumpkin Nursing and Changing Station**  
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**SPONSORED BY:**



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**BINGO Thursday nights.**  
Special Events posted on Facebook:  
**Morton Knights of Columbus**

# CARNIVAL

The Morton Pumpkin Festival features one of the best carnivals you will find anywhere, courtesy of Big M Amusements, the carnival and midway provider for this event for over 50 years.

Big M brings a wide variety of rides, games, and classic carnival concessions to satisfy both the young and young at heart. There are thrill rides for the more adventurous souls and milder versions for younger children.

Along the midway, you will find carnival games with lots of prizes and iconic festival treats like funnel cakes, corn dogs, and lemon shake-ups.

The Morton Pumpkin Festival carnival is one of the key attractions for thousands of families who come back year after year.

## CARNIVAL TICKETS

Carnival tickets are \$35 for a strip of 10 or \$4 each and can be found at ticket booths located throughout the midway. Ticket booths accept both cash and credit cards. Carnival rides are 1 or 2 tickets each, depending on the size of the ride.

## ADVANCE DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY ONLY

Strips of 10 tickets can be purchased for \$30 from Tuesday, September 5 through Wednesday, September 13 at 12pm at the following locations: Sucré Sweets and Socials, Leaves 'N Beans Coffee Shop, Grimm's Inc, Lulu's on Main, Blain's Farm N Fleet, Great Harvest Bread Co., Scrolls The Sweet Room, America's Popcorn Shop, Four30 Scones, Nena's Hardware, and Thr3ads Boutique. Tickets can also be purchased at the Morton Chamber of Commerce from Tuesday, September 5 through Tuesday, September 12 at 1pm.

## WRISTBANDS

Purchase a wristband and ride as many rides as you would like on Friday, September 15, between 2:30pm and 5:30pm. Advance sale wristbands are \$20 and available for purchase at all advance ticket sales locations. Wristbands are \$30 at the main ticket booth on the carnival midway (corner of First and Adams).



**PUMPKIN AND PALS  
SPONSORED BY:**



**Thank you to our partner businesses that help  
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# LIBBY'S® PUMPKIN RECIPE CHALLENGE

**Date:** Wednesday September 6

**Time:** Judging begins at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Freedom Hall

Does your recipe have what it takes to win this year's LIBBY'S® Pumpkin Recipe Challenge?

This year's competition features three categories: Junior (ages 10 to 17), Adult Sweet, and Adult Savory. Only one entry per person!

1st Place in the Adult and Junior categories will receive \$100 in Chamber Checks and 2nd Places will receive \$35 in Chamber Checks! Winners of the Junior and Adult categories will compete for the \$150 Overall Grand Prize. Youth entrants will receive a participation ribbon.

Winners will be recognized Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 pm on the Entertainment Stage on Festival grounds.

See last year's winning recipe and read more details on this year's Recipe Challenge at [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-recipe-challenge](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-recipe-challenge)

Registration will be available until September 5. Pre-registration is required.

LIBBY'S® Pumpkin

# Recipe Challenge



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## PUMPKIN SPECIALS!

- Pumpkin Scone w/ Caramel + Pecans
- Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Scones
- Pumpkin Frozen Cold Brew
- Pumpkin Latte

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# PUMPKIN TENNIS OPEN

**Tennis Open Date:** Friday, September 8 – Sunday, September 10  
**Time:** 6 pm on Friday, 8 am on Saturday (8 am Sunday if needed)  
**Location:** Joal Stanfield Tennis Complex at Morton High School  
**Fee:** \$30/player

Registration divisions include: Boy's Singles, Boy's Doubles, Girl's Singles, Girl's Doubles, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles, Men's Singles, and Men's Doubles. The last day to register is Tuesday, September 5. Age brackets will be dependent on registration (Registration available for ages 11 and up). The schedule will be released to contestants on Thursday, September 7.

Register online at  
[www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-tennis-open/](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-tennis-open/)



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# PUMPKIN PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

**Pickleball Tournament Date:** Sunday, September 3  
**Time:** Matches begin at 8 am, check in at 7:30 am  
**Location:** Birchwood Park  
**Fee:** \$40/team (T-Shirt included)

Registration divisions include: men's doubles and women's doubles (ages 14 and up). Men's skill levels: beginner and advanced. Women's skill levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Skills levels are based on the skill level of the higher rated partner. The last day to register is Friday, September 1. Format for the day will be dependent on the number of entries for each division.

Register for this event at  
[www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pickleball-tournament/](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pickleball-tournament/)



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# PUMPKIN PEDAL

**Date:** Saturday, September 9  
**Start Time:** 10:30 am  
**Location:** Better Banks  
**Parking:** Morton Towne Centre

The Pumpkin Pedal, hosted by Better Banks, is a 5-mile family bike ride touring Morton, beginning and ending at Better Banks. There will be fun and activities for bikers for all ages. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Midwest Food Bank's Tender Mercies program.

Register on our website at [mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-pedal](http://mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-pedal)

**Thank you to the Morton Police Department  
for escorting the riders along the route!**



**SPONSORED BY:**



**BENEFITTING:**



# FISHING DERBY

**Date:** Saturday, September 9  
**Time:** 8 am - 11 am  
**Location:** Kennel Lake  
**Competition Categories:** Youth (16 and under) and Adult (17 and older)  
**Awards:** Biggest Single Fish (by weight) and Most Fish

Hey all you anglers! Kennel Lake is proud to host the Fishing Derby as part of Farmin' Pumpkins! Awards will be given per competition category for Biggest Single Fish (by weight) and Most Fish. Fishing is limited to bank fishing only.

Register on our website at [mortonpumpkinfestival.org/fishing-derby](http://mortonpumpkinfestival.org/fishing-derby)



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# PUMPKIN WEIGH OFF

SCALE PROVIDED BY:



**Date: Tuesday, September 12**

**Time: 4 pm – 5:30 pm**

**Location: Corner of First Avenue and Jefferson Street**

The Pumpkin Weigh Off, sponsored by LIBBY'S® Pumpkin, is a competition showcasing pumpkins of all sizes! Trophies and prizes will be awarded for the Giant King Pumpkin, the Queen Pumpkin, and the Tiniest Pumpkin grown by Morton children.

Anyone can enter the Mature Pumpkin Weighing Exactly 57 Pounds of the Open Class Giant Pumpkin Competitions. The Open Class winner receives a \$300 cash prize!

To participate, bring your pumpkin to the parking lot across from PNC Bank between 4 pm – 5:30 pm.

All winners will be recognized on the Pumpkin Festival Entertainment Stage on Thursday, September 14 beginning at 6:30 pm. The winning pumpkins will be featured at the Morton Public Library and will ride in the Pumpkin Festival Parade on Saturday, September 16!

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# PUMPKIN WINDOW DECORATING

**Date: Judging on Tuesday, September 12**

**Winners will be announced and recognized on stage on Thursday, September 14.**

Morton classrooms of grades 2 - 6 are encouraged to create their own class's work of art on a 25x30 inch sheet to be judged and displayed in the window at the Chamber Office (located at 415 W. Jefferson St.). The first 10 classrooms who participate will receive \$50 to go toward their classroom funds. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and a People's Choice Award (ballots available for \$5 at the Chamber Office with donations going to the participating schools' PTOs). **Winners will be announced and recognized on stage Thursday, September 14.**

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Learn more at [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/window-decorating-contest](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/window-decorating-contest)

# BIG WHEEL RACE

**Date:** Tuesday, September 12

**Check In:** 6 pm

**Race:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Washington Street, between Main Street and Plum Avenue

**Cost:** \$10

On your mark! Get set! Go!!!

The Big Wheels ride again at our annual Big Wheel Race, hosted by St. Jude Morton to Peoria Runners. This fun event for kids ages 10 and under is always a blast. Each racer receives a prize for participating.

Register your child online  
at [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/big-wheel-race](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/big-wheel-race)

Onsite registration will also be available.



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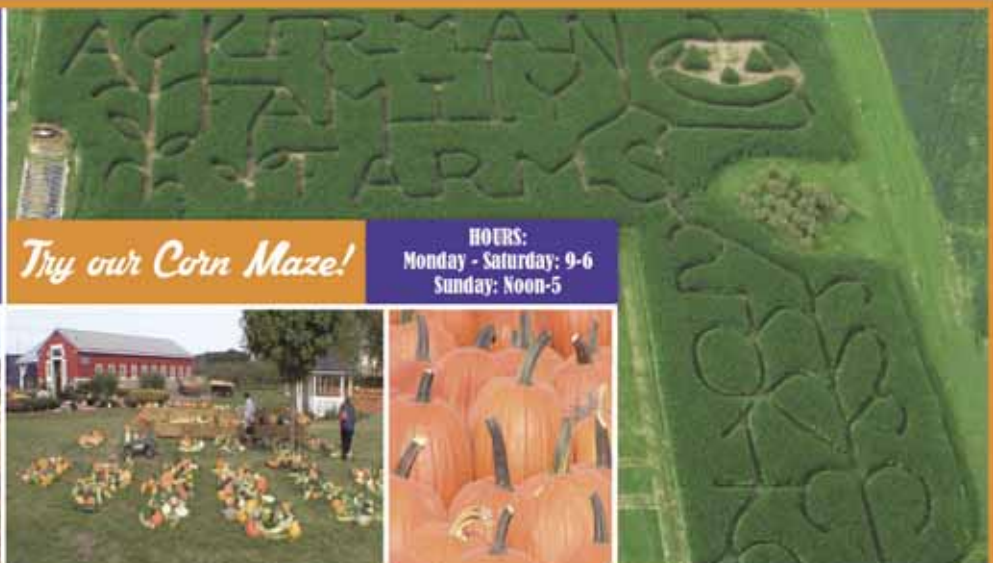
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# PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

**Date:** Tuesday, September 12

**Time:** 3:30 pm – 6 pm (Entries Accepted)

**Location:** Family Fun Patch

The Pumpkin Decorating Contest, hosted by Ackerman Family Farms, is a favorite of local children and families. All Morton children and those that attend Morton schools can pick up a FREE designated Festival pumpkin at Ackerman Family Farms (from September 7 through September 10 during regular hours of operations) and decorate it with the Farmin' Pumpkins theme. All creatively decorated pumpkins will be on display at the Pumpkin Decorating Tent in the Family Fun Patch!



**Good for  
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designated Festival  
**Pumpkin**

**For the Pumpkin Decorating Contest**

*(Applies only to children who are residents  
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**Mondays – Saturdays:**

9:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Sundays:**

Noon to 5:00 pm



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# OPENING CEREMONY

**Date:** Wednesday, September 13

**Time:** 5 pm

**Location:** Entertainment Stage

Join us for the official Opening Ceremony of the Morton Pumpkin Festival!

During the Opening Ceremony, everyone recites the official Pumpkin Festival Pledge, then we will cut the traditional pumpkin vine as we kick off the 57th Morton Pumpkin Festival.

## **PUMPKIN FESTIVAL PLEDGE:**

I (state your name) do solemnly pledge:

To eat lots of Pumpkin Festival food

To ride lots of Pumpkin Festival rides

To put my trash and my recyclables in the proper bins

To ask for help when I need it

To help when I am able

And to take pride in MY hometown,


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# PUMPKIN

## Princess Pageant

Date: Wednesday, September 13

Time: 6 pm

Location: Entertainment Stage



The pumpkin princess pageant is a unique opportunity for five and six year old girls to participate in a fun, magical pageant experience. Contestants will light up the festival stage showcasing their costumes and talent. The princesses can also be seen riding in the pumpkin carriage in both of the festival parades!



## 2023 Pumpkin Princess Court

Back Row (L to R) Petra Mischley, Savannah Weaver, Josie Losen, Blair Bush, Italia Hauter

Front Row (L to R) Belle Dolan, Georgia Grace Bryant, Kellan Schmitt, Ridgely Cline, Saylor Monfre

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# KIDDIE PARADE

**Date: Thursday, September 14**

**Line up: 5:30 pm**

**Parade Start Time: 6 pm**

**Location: Heartland Bank Drive-Up on Main Street**

**Parade Spectators: Main Street, Downtown Morton**

Morton children from infants to 1st graders are invited to walk in the 2023 Kiddie Parade! The parade route runs approximately two blocks along Main Street and ends at Village Hall. Kids are encouraged to wear a costume in honor of our Farmin' Pumpkins theme! Each child receives a participant ribbon, ride ticket, and an ice cream cone coupon for walking in the parade.

No advance registration is required.



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## CHARACTER MEET AND GREET

**Time: 6:15 pm following Kiddie Parade**

**Location: In the Family Fun Patch (Church Square)**

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# SENIOR APPRECIATION & PUMPKIN BINGO

**Date: Thursday, September 14**

**Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Location: Festival Grounds, Sweet Shop Tent**

Seniors, please join us for a Senior Appreciation afternoon at the Morton Pumpkin Festival!

The afternoon begins with a fun, relaxing game of Pumpkin Bingo from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm near the Entertainment Stage at the Sweet Shop Tent.

After Pumpkin Bingo, seniors will receive a free slice of pumpkin pie and coffee in the Sweet Shop while listening to the Central Illinois Banjo Club from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.



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# PUMPKIN IDOL JR.

**Date:** Friday, September 15

**Time:** 6 pm

**Location:** Entertainment Stage



Do you know a young person who has dreamed of being the next American Idol? Here's a chance to showcase that future star's talent! Pumpkin Idol Jr. is a singing competition for ages 8 to 12! The contest is limited to 10 contestants.

Pumpkin Idol Jr. will hold a preliminary round on August 30 prior to the Festival. No contestants are eliminated during the preliminary rounds. During the event finals, contestants will sing to our crowds on the Festival stage!

The winner of the competition receives \$300 in Chamber Checks! For more details, go to [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-idol-jr](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-idol-jr)



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# 2023

# PARADE MARSHAL



John Ackerman was born and raised just outside Morton, Illinois in the home built by his great grandparents. He graduated from Morton High School where he met his now wife, Eve. John and Eve are the owners of Ackerman Family Farms, a continually growing business and farm which has been in the Ackerman Family since 1909. The Ackerman family is instrumental in decorating Festival Grounds during the week of Pumpkin Festival, as well as playing a huge role in the Pumpkin Decorating Contest. John and Eve have 4 children, two of which are still in the Morton area. John says his favorite thing about Morton is that Morton is “small enough to have the commerce that makes life convenient but still small enough to know that we are a community that looks out for each other. Morton is a town where neighbors help neighbors.” When he is not farming, he enjoys kayaking with his wife, serving at the Morton United Methodist Church and on the Tazewell County Farm Bureau Board, as well as hosting game nights and nerf wars on the farm with his children and grandchildren. We are thrilled to honor John, and Eve, Ackerman as our 2023 Morton Pumpkin Festival Parade Marshal!

“Ackerman Farms has been around Morton for over 100 years and who could be more deserving than “Farmer” John Ackerman to lead our community in the 57th Annual Morton Pumpkin Festival Parade?? Farmer John and Miss Eve provide hours of enjoyment to our families through their “Farmin’ Pumpkins” lifestyles.”

— Lisa Moser

“I cannot think of anyone that is more deserving of being the Parade Marshal of a festival that is celebrating farming than John Ackerman. John has been active in the Morton community for his entire life. While operating a small business with his wife Eve and running a farm, he still finds the time to be a friend to the festival and a servant of his church. John is a truly a blessing to this community and an excellent representative of his profession. Congratulations Farmer John!”

— Nick Graff



## PAST PARADE MARSHALS

1970 – Phil Hauter, Oscar Mathis, & Arch Bartelmay  
 1971 – Robby Roecker  
 1972 – Morton Volunteer Fire Department  
 1973 – Eliza Ackerman  
 1974 – Jr. High School State Basketball Champs  
 1975 – Roy McClelland  
 1976 – Marilyn Richmond  
 1977 – George Rein  
 1978 – Joe Witzig  
 1979 – Jerry Moreland  
 1980 – Burdell Hall  
 1981 – Alfred Carius  
 1982 – Harold Bower  
 1983 – Jim Davis  
 1984 – Dr. L.S. Patton  
 1985 – Don Roth  
 1986 – Clarence Belsley  
 1987 – Virden Rinkenberger

1988 – Gerry Carius  
 1989 – Ben Hauter  
 1990 – Wilfred Wierman  
 1991 – Rudy Jungst  
 1992 – Lloyd Domnick  
 1993 – Doris Morton  
 1994 – Les Freidinger  
 1995 – Linda Yoder  
 1996 – George Annasenz  
 1997 – Harold Witzig & Gene Witzig  
 1998 – Richard “Chick” Evans  
 1999 – Merlin Birky  
 2000 – Sheila Harvey  
 2001 – Ken Aupperle  
 2002 – Dianne Simmons  
 2003 – Gerald Duffelmeier  
 2004 – Gwen Phillips  
 2005 – Jim Carius

2006 – Wayne Sutter  
 2007 – Bob Schnarr  
 2008 – Cliff Hasselbacher  
 2009 – Janice Sherman  
 2010 – Ray Mason  
 2011 – Henry Rapp  
 2012 – Dale Ritthaler  
 2013 – Dr. Norm Durlfinger  
 2014 – Lloyd “Bud” Zobrist  
 2015 – Morton High School Lady Potters State Champs  
 & Boys Golf Team State Champs  
 2016 – Honoring 50 Years of Past Parade Marshals  
 2017 – Phil Kuhl  
 2018 – Morton Potters Baseball State Champs  
 2019 – Susan Pyles  
 2020 – Doug Shull  
 2021 – Wayne Menold  
 2022 – Gary Watson



# PUMPKIN FESTIVAL PARADE

**Date: Saturday, September 16**

**Time: 10:30 am**

One of the premier events at the Morton Pumpkin Festival is the Morton Pumpkin Festival Parade, sponsored by MIX 106.9. The parade features over 100 entries including floats, marching bands, and antique vehicles. Parade entries will decorate to the 2023 Farmin' Pumpkins theme.

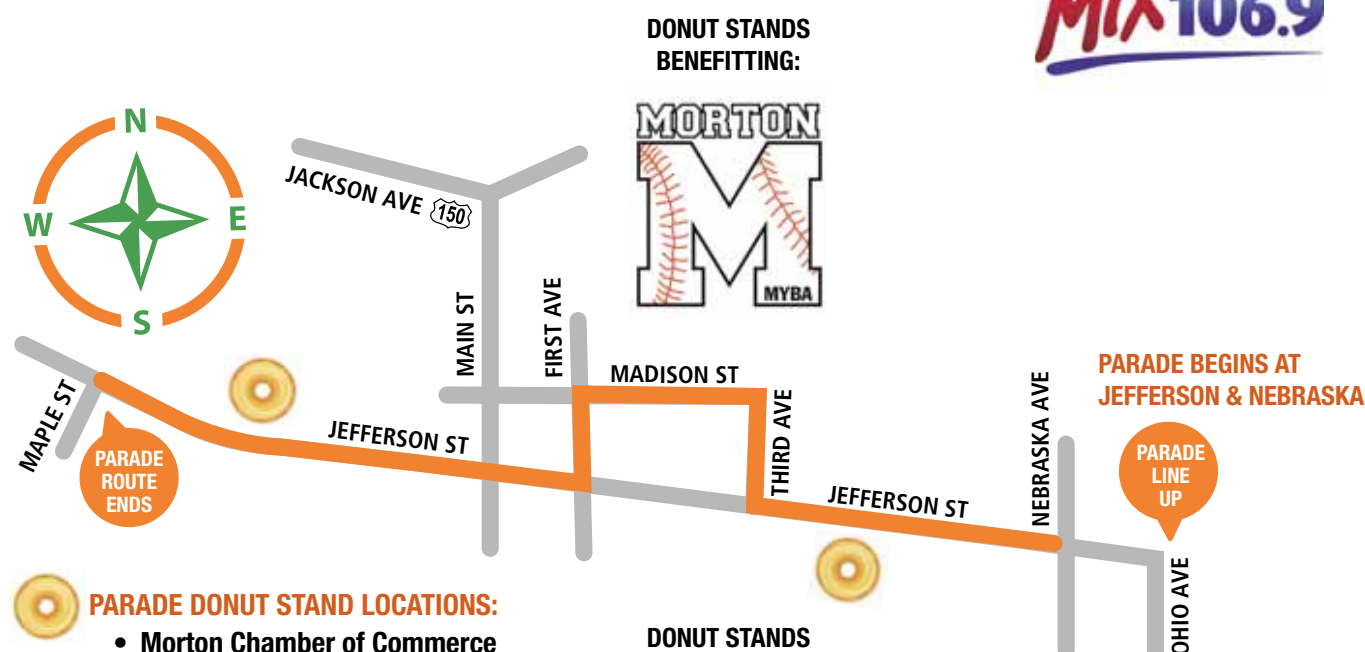
For those in need of a quick bite, Parade Donut Stands will be located on the parade route. Stop by these bright blue Pepsi concession trailers for pumpkin donuts and cold beverages. Hosted by MYBA (Morton Youth Baseball Association), these stands are the perfect way to enjoy a taste of the Morton Pumpkin Festival while supporting a local non-profit organization. MYBA will also be selling pumpkin donuts from golf carts along the parade route!

Don't forget to bring a bag to collect candy and toys, handed out by many of our parade entries, and wear **ORANGE** to the parade to show your pumpkin spirit!

We can't wait to see you at the Morton Pumpkin Festival Parade!



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# PUMPKIN CLASSIC

## 10K RUN & 2 MILE FUN RUN/WALK

**Date: Saturday, September 16**

**Time: 7:15 am for 2-Mile, 7:30 am for 10K**

**Location: PNC Bank lot (Jefferson St.)**

One of the most popular events at the Morton Pumpkin Festival is our Pumpkin Classic Run and Walk, sponsored by LIBBY'S® Pumpkin.

All are welcome to participate in this active morning, whether that is in our untimed 2-mile or in our competitive 10K. Our flat course runs through town to the outskirts of Morton and then finishes in the heart of the Pumpkin Festival.

Each participant will receive a complimentary ticket for a coffee and donut or Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast.

All Pumpkin Classic participants who register by September 10 will receive a race shirt as part of their entry fee. All 10K racers will receive a special medallion upon completion of the race!

The Pumpkin Classic is limited to 2,000 participants. Registration will close at capacity or on Friday, September 15 at 6 am (whichever comes first).

Register early to guarantee your spot at [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-classic-run-and-walk](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-classic-run-and-walk)

### PACKET PICK-UP:

**Friday, September 15**  
**from 5 – 7 pm at Lincoln Grade**  
**School, 100 S. Nebraska Ave.,**  
**or limited packet pick-up**  
**on Saturday morning,**  
**September 16, beginning at 6 am on**  
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# PUMPKIN PIE EATING CONTEST

**Date:** Saturday, September 16

**Time:** 3 pm

**Location:** Entertainment Stage

**Cost:** \$10

The famous Morton Pumpkin Festival Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest awaits those bold enough to take on the challenge! Randy Rundle from MIX 106.9 will once again emcee this wonderfully messy event.

Age groups for this fun competition are Elementary School, Junior High/High School, and Adult. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner of each category.

Each group is limited to 18 contestants, so register early at [www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-pie-eating-competition](http://www.mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkin-pie-eating-competition)



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# PUMPKINS GOT TALENT

**Date:** Saturday, September 16

**Time:** 7 pm

**Location:** Entertainment Stage

**Cost:** \$25 per individual/\$35 per group



**SCAN HERE  
TO LEARN MORE!**

Help us close out the 57th Annual Morton Pumpkin Festival with a community talent show! Pumpkin's Got Talent is open to all ages, and is a great way to show case your special talent! Both individual and group talents are invited to perform. Auditions will not be required, but all acts will have to be approved by the Morton Chamber of Commerce.

## JUDGING:

**A 1st place winner will be chosen for each of the following categories:**

- **Individuals**
- **Groups**
- **People's Choice: the audience will vote via an online poll**

Register on our website at [mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkins-got-talent](http://mortonpumpkinfestival.org/pumpkins-got-talent)

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# MURALS & POSTCARDS

Be on the lookout for these images, as well as a few others, to be displayed as murals around town. Morton and Pumpkin Festival postcards are also available at the Pumpkin Store.



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# TOUR THE TOWN

**WHO:** Pumpkin Festival Attendees, community members and visitors

**WHAT:** Chamber member businesses will offer swag items, special food items, discounts, or coupons and/or will decorate their storefront to the 2023 Pumpkin Festival theme

**WHERE:** Brick & mortar business and organizations located in the Village of Morton

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 9 – Saturday, September 16

**WHY:** To bring awareness of Morton businesses during the Pumpkin Festival

SPONSORED BY:



Scan here to view participating businesses!

# LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

**WHO:** Businesses/organizations/groups within the Morton area

**WHAT:** Businesses/organizations/groups set up to share more about their services & offer family activities or crafts

**WHERE:** Family Fun Patch – Church Square (225 E Jefferson St.)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 13 – Saturday, September 16

**WHY:** To showcase businesses/organizations/groups that serve our community

**TIME:** Wednesday – Thursday, 4 pm – 8 pm / Friday – Saturday, 12 pm – 8 pm

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# MERCHANDISE

Our Pumpkin Store offers everything you'll ever need to celebrate all things pumpkin before, during, and after the Morton Pumpkin Festival! Whether it's clothes, souvenirs, or other merchandise, we have something for everyone at the Pumpkin Store!

For collectors, we will again have our theme-related lapel pin and coffee mug.

The Pumpkin Store will be open at the Morton Chamber of Commerce, 415 W. Jefferson.

## PUMPKIN STORE HOURS:

**Tuesday, September 5 – Friday, September 8: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm**

**Saturday, September 9: 10:00am – 1:00pm**

**Monday, September 11: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm**

**Tuesday, September 12: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

This year the Pumpkin Store will be located on festival grounds at the Merchandise Tent.

## MERCHANDISE TENT HOURS ON FESTIVAL GROUNDS:

**Wednesday, September 13: 4 pm – 8 pm**

**Thursday, September 14: 3 pm – 8 pm**

**Friday, September 15: 12 pm – 9 pm**

**Saturday, September 16: 12 pm – 8 pm**



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# ART & CRAFT MARKET

Location: Birchwood Park

## HOURS:

Friday, September 15: 3:30 pm – 7 pm

Saturday, September 16: 8 am – 6 pm



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## PARKING/WALKING MAP

Public Parking will be located in Birchwood Park and in the neighborhood next to Birchwood Park

BOOTH	VENDOR	CATEGORY
1, 2, & 3	Jim's Garden Iron	Iron Work
4, 5	Dave's Coffee Cakes	Food
6	Written by Maria	Graphic/Wood
7, 8, & 9	Crafts by Melissa	Wood/Needlecraft by Machine
10	Diane's Designs	Needlecraft by Machine
11	Wooden Element	Wood Fashion
12, 13	Live Edge 309	Wood
14	Three Sisters Soap	Personal Care
15	Full Circle Trees	Paper Craft
16	Top Fox Snacks	Food
17, 18	MAD Creations	Wood
19	Bear's Bites	Other - Dog/Cat Treats
20	iSincerelyWish Candle Co.	Personal Care/Wax Products
21	Dip'n Good Dips	Food
22	Darlene Lewis	Needlecraft by Hand
23	Burell LLC Burell Crafts	Jewelry/Needlecraft by Hand
24, 25	Hardin Soy Candles/Book Rack	Wax Products
26	BeeCraftn	Jewelry - Clay, Polymer
27	Hair Haven Accessories, LLC	Needlecraft by Machine
28	Objects in Wood	Wood - Furniture
29	Cute As A Button Designs	Other
30	Pumpkin Glass Gallery & Studio	Glass./Jewelry
31	Reginetta Press	Paper Crafts - Books
32, 33	Mimi's Bows Boutique	Needlecraft by Hand
34	Clever Gretel	Needlecraft by Hand/Glass/ Jewelry
35	Tippy Creek LLC	Personal Care,/Wax Products/ Food
36	Floral Presence	Jewelry
37, 38	Crafting the Edge	Other - Black Pipe Lamps/Wood
39, 40	The Rustic Home	Wood
41, 42, 43	Mirocha's Metal Art & Signs	Metal
44	The Creative Engineer	Wood Decorations
45	OC Woodworking and Crafts	Wood
46	Fiddler's Green CBD	Personal Care
47, 48, 49	Kuhn's Bakery	Food
50, 51	Tazewood Creative Work	Metal/Wood
52	Diggity Dawg Bakery	Other - Dog treats
53	Thunder & Stone	Jewelry
54, 55	643 Designz by Chris Grimm	Fine Arts
56	UniqueByBerry	Jewelry/Decorative Arts
57	Miss Prints Publishing	Graphics
58	Jules By Design	Jewelry
59	Dutch Made	Wood
60, 61	J.Draper Glass	Glass
62	KJM Designs	Needlecraft by Machine
63	Piccadilly Girl	Needlecraft by Machine

BOOTH	VENDOR	CATEGORY
64, 65	Covered Wagon Crafts	Handpainted Wood
66	Sizelove Crafts	Wood/Needlecraft
67	Oak Crest Alpacas	Knitting, Crochet, Weaving - Alpaca Yarn
68	Betsy Bleu Designs	Needlecraft by Machine/Needle Craft by Hand
69	Davis Custom Countertops	Wood - Cabinetry/Furniture
70, 71	Loose Ends Jewelry	Jewelry
72	Homemade by Lynda	Needlecraft by Hand
73, 74	B.Key Art Doll Clothes	Needlecraft - Doll Clothes
75	Rogue Collars	Needlecraft by Machine/ Pet Products
76, 77, 78	Marsha Beal-Hermes	Needlecraft by Machine/ Crafts & getzmade.co
79, 80	Sew Special	Needlecraft by Machine
81, 82	J&D Stones	Stone
83, 84	B&G Enterprises	Needlecraft/Wood
85	Made by Michelle	Wax Products / Wood
86	TnD Gift Shop	Food
87	KP's Concrete Paws	Stone
88	Street Kat Collective	Jewelry - Gemstones
89	Saturday Morning Tea	Food
90	Sophia Renee Designs	Jewelry - Fine Art
91	LindaCordesArt	Fine Arts
92	Baldwin Family Jewels	Natural Materials / Jewelry
93	Kate's Krafts	Jewelry
94	2M Designs	Wood, Natural Materials, Graphics
95	Moonlit Organics	Wax Products
96	Spirited Stone	Natural Materials
97	Two Arrows Studio	Jewelry
98, 99, 100, 101	Jane's Sweet Addictions/ The Nut House	Food
102	Dantone Greenhouses Inc	Natural Materials
103	Golden Woods	Wood
104, 105	Creations by Cars	Jewelry/Needlecraft by Hand
106, 107	Ethereal Ephemera	Jewelry/Home Decor
108, 109, 110	A Craft Passion	Wood
111	Benny Grapes Designs	Natural Materials
112, 113	Grill & Garden	Metal
114	Jess Went Knots	Fiber Arts - Macrame
115	EZYCraft	Wood
116	Bowlicious by Anna and Cindy	Childrens Items/Other - Hand Sewn Hairbows
117, 118	Dough Delights, Inc.	Clay/Other
119	Lakeside Licorice	Food

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# PROJECT PUMPKIN



Project Pumpkin is an endowment fund that the Morton Chamber of Commerce launched in 2013, in partnership with the Morton Community Foundation, to provide access to the Morton Pumpkin Festival for families in need in our community.

The Morton Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that the Project Pumpkin Endowment Fund is now fully funded! A big thanks to all our donors who helped make this possible!

To continue building this fund for future needs, Festival guests can purchase an orange bandana and an exclusive Farmin' Pumpkins button at the Pumpkin Store and Merchandise Tent. 100% of the proceeds from this item will go to the Project Pumpkin fund.

Direct contributions to the Project Pumpkin Endowment Fund can also be made at the Morton Community Foundation.

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# GIVING BACK

## MORTON HIGH SCHOOL FFA PROGRAM

This year the Morton Pumpkin Festival Giveback Project is the Morton High School FFA Program. The provided funding will benefit the program by providing a set of 15 FFA jackets, a set of TVs for the Shop, FFA ties and scarves, as well as various other kits and supplies.



“ The Pumpkin Festival Giveback program is supporting our re-chartered MHS FFA program. This giveback is going to allow us to outfit our FFA members in the proper uniform for competition as our number of participants continues to grow. The giveback will also help us to purchase the equipment needed to prepare our students for competitions. We predict our program will continue to grow to at least 30 students this year with an immeasurable impact on our school and community. Thank you Pumpkin Festival Giveback committee for your generous support! ”

— Deidre Ripka  
Morton High School Principal

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# FAQS:

## CARNIVAL

- **How much are tickets?** Tickets are \$35 for a strip of 10 or \$4 each. Some rides will take 2 tickets. Advanced discount tickets are available in strips of 10 for \$30.
- **Can I use leftover tickets next year?** Yes, our amusement vendor Big M Amusements always accepts older tickets!
- **When can I use wristbands?** Wristbands are only on Friday from 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm and are \$30 at the ticket booth.
- **Can I use the tickets I purchased on Wednesday and Thursday on Friday or Saturday?** Tickets for Wednesday and Thursday can only be used on those days.
- **Can I wear flip-flops on the rides?** No.

## FOOD AND MERCHANDISE

- **Where can I buy Festival merchandise?** The Pumpkin Store inside the Merchandise Tent.
- **Where can I buy pumpkins and pumpkin butter?** Off Festival grounds, Ackerman Family Farms at 27158 US-150, Morton.
- **The former Business Expo offers several new ways to enjoy or participate: Tour the Town – Merchants Week: September 9-16** – visit participating Morton brick and mortar businesses (found in the Festival Guidebook and on the website) to receive swag items / special food items/discounts and coupons.  
**Local Spotlight: September 13-16** - Church Square grassy lot (225 E Jefferson St.) Featuring organizations and groups within the Morton area that offer outreach initiatives, non-profit services and more.
- **Where else can I get pumpkin ice cream?** In town, Culvers has pumpkin custard concrete mixers and flavors of the day during Festival. The Pumpkin Drive-Thru at former Sam Leman on Detroit Avenue also sells pumpkin ice cream.
- **Where else can I get pumpkin foods?** Eli's Coffee Shop, Four30 Scones, America's Popcorn Shop, Great Harvest Bread Company, The Confectionery, Kemp208, Dac's Smokehouse, Leaves 'N Beans, Scrolls The Sweet Room, and Sucré Sweets and Socials will also be offering pumpkin treats.
- **What if I just want pumpkin donuts and coffee on Saturday morning?** The Pumpkin Sweet Shop will be open from 6 am – 11 am on Saturday for coffee, donuts, whole pumpkin pies, and quarts of ice cream.

## ATTRACTIONS

- **What are the top ten must-see events during Festival?** The Pumpkin Festival Parade, the Art & Craft Market, the Pumpkin Grill, Uncle Bud's Apple Cider Slushie food vendor stand, the Carnival, the Pumpkin Sweet Shop, the Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast, performances and contests on the Entertainment Stage, Tour the Town, and the Family Fun Patch.
- **What activities are free?** Tour the Town, Art & Craft Market, and Pumpkin Decorating Tent are free to enter and roam. Entertainment at the Entertainment Stage and the Kiddie Parade are open to the public. The Family Fun Patch has a variety of free to low-cost activities. We also recommend visiting the pumpkin playground at Memorial Plaza for additional play time!
- **Where is the Pumpkin Weigh off winning pumpkin displayed?** The winners will be displayed at the Morton Public Library following the Pumpkin Festival Parade. This year's Giant Pumpkin will also be in the Festival Parade.

## SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- **Where are permanent (not portable) bathrooms (not Port-a-Potties)?** Restrooms at Memorial Plaza are open to the public.
- **Where can I find a changing table?** The Little Pumpkin Nursing and Changing Station can be found at the Family Fun Patch.
- **Where can I find handicap-accessible parking?** The Village parking lot off of Main Street and Madison as well as the back of church square (behind the Family Fun Patch) will all be converted into handicap-accessible parking.
- **Where is a drop-off location?** The corner of Third Ave. and Jefferson St. is our recommended drop-off location, but this area is closed on Saturday morning for the Pumpkin Classic and Parade.
- **Is there an ATM located on Festival Grounds?** Yes, there are 3 ATMs located around Festival Grounds; one next to the Sweet Shop near Jefferson Street, one on the corner of Main Street and Jefferson Street, and one near Heartland Bank just off of Washington Street.
- **Are pets allowed on Festival Grounds?** Pets are not permitted on Pumpkin Festival Grounds, with the exception of service animals. Pets may not be left in or tied to an unattended vehicle on or around Festival Grounds.
- **Where is First Aid located?** First Aid is located in the PNC Bank parking lot on the corner of Jefferson and First Street. First responders can also be found in this location.

**Thank you to the Morton Police Department, Morton Fire Department, and Morton Paramedics for ensuring the safety of Festival goers!**

## PUMPKIN FESTIVAL INFORMATION BOOTH

Got questions? We have answers! Stop by the Pumpkin Festival Information Booth at the corner of Jefferson and S. First Ave! Speak with one of our friendly local Library staff members. The Information Booth will also serve as Lost & Found during the Festival hours of operation.

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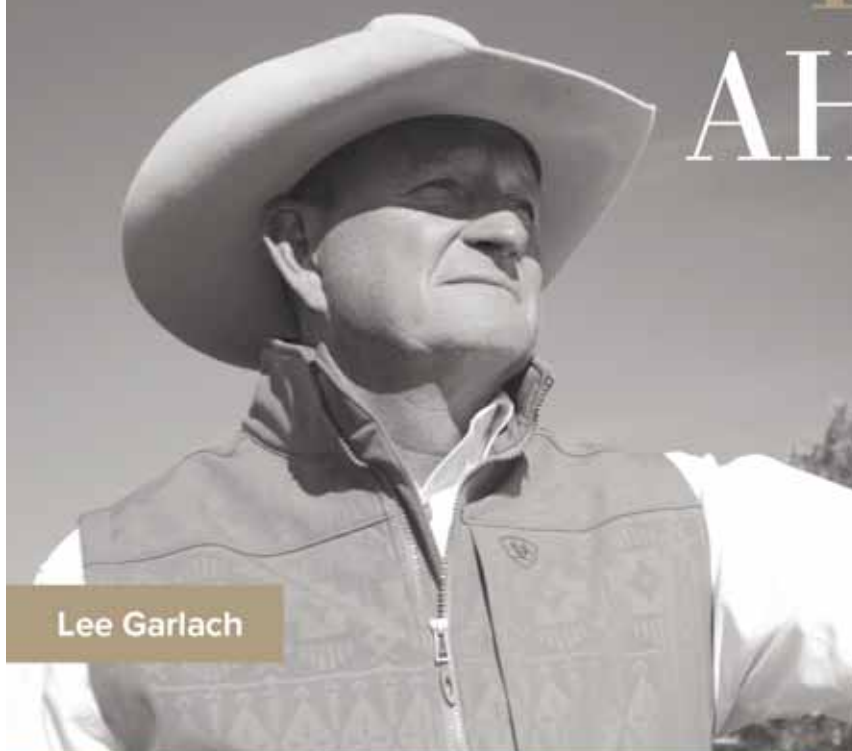
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