

Parking tricky at Fest

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As thousands of visitors flock to State College for the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, borough officials say parking downtown is going to get tight, but getting a spot is a matter of knowing your options and coming early.

State College Borough Council member Theresa Lafer said some people will “drive around in circles” downtown looking for parking spots when they could just park at a Penn State lot and take a shuttle into the downtown area.

“It is the simplest and most straightforward way,” Lafer said. “And because some of the event is already on campus, it’s direct.”

Those willing to dish out some extra bucks can have better parking spots. Visitors can park in the Beaver Stadium lots for \$5 and

take the Blue Loop bus into town for free.

But for those who still want to park closer to town, there will be opportunities to nab a spot — if you plan accordingly.

State College Borough Parking Manager Charles DeBow said the key to getting a space in one of the borough parking garages is to plan ahead.

“Your best options are to get here early,” DeBow said with a laugh.

If visitors arrive before 10 a.m., spots are still likely to be open, he said.

Parking will be especially tight on Thursday and Friday, DeBow said, because the usual business parking will have to be accommodated in addition to Arts Fest parking.

Construction on the Fraser Street Garage, 135 S. Fraser St., is complete, so there will no longer be any parking restrictions in that lot, DeBow said.

Even fraternities, which usually have private parking spaces of their own, said they will struggle to find enough parking for all of their visitors.

Max Wendkos, president of the Interfraternity Council, said his fraternity — Theta Delta Chi, 305 E. Prospect Ave. — probably won’t have enough spaces for all the fraternity brothers visiting from out of town.

He said visitors shouldn’t count on fraternities for additional parking because they are likely to be just as crowded as the downtown lots.

Lafer reminded visitors to obey all parking directions on street signs, because the borough will be quick to tow or ticket any vehicles that are parking illegally.

“Do not park in a place that says ‘No parking,’” she said. “You will likely not find your car there when you come back.”

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Nittany Dreamers twirlers practice for an upcoming performance.

Twirlers to perform

By Brendan McNally
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When the Nittany Dreamers Baton Corps takes the stage at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of Arts today at 11 a.m., it will be following in the footsteps of Penn State’s feature twirler: the Blue Sapphire.

John Mitchell, the Blue Band’s Blue Sapphire feature twirler in 1992, started the organization to teach children aged four to 18 in the State College area to twirl.

Since then, other Blue Sapphires like Christine Wolfe and Bobbie Jo Solomon have led the group.

Today, Nittany Dreamers perform and march with fire companies at area parades and perform each year at Arts Fest.

“They look forward to it,” former president Marcey McMillan said. “They’ve been practicing their butts off all season.”

The group is now trained by Kelly Hoy, Class of 2010, who practices with the group once a

week to prepare for performances.

She was a Penn State twirler herself.

Today’s performance will be a nice change because the twirlers will be standing in place on the Old Main lawn, instead of their usual marching, Hoy said.

McMillan agreed.

“It’s hard to perform while marching down the street,” McMillan said. “So it’ll fun to stand in place for a change.”

All of the twirlers are from the State College area and are directed by a Penn Stater, but Hoy said she isn’t sure if any of the girls want to become the next Blue Sapphire at Penn State.

“I’m sure it’s crossed their minds,” Hoy said. “But I’m not sure if any definitely want to twirl at Penn State.”

But Hoy said she’d love to see them follow in her footsteps.

“I hope they go to Penn State,” she said with a laugh.

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Children

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together,” he said. “Parents bringing their children out not just for a movie but for a theater experience.”

At 2:30 p.m., the Centre County Outstanding Young Woman finalists will perform different talents to prepare for the scholarship program’s finals in October.

Linn Ripka, of the Centre County Outstanding Young Woman program, said about five of the 15 finalists will participate in various numbers such as

dances, monologues and vocal performances.

Then at 4 p.m., the Grand Procession will be held, starting on Old Main Lawn and giving children a hands-on opportunity to select puppets — created by freelance artist Phyllis Kipp — to carry in the parade.

The only concern she has for this year’s festival is the hot weather.

“I hope people come prepared for the heat,” she said. “I’m worried about the children, and it takes patience.”

Throughout the day, a Children and Youth Sidewalk Sale will take

place on South Allen Street.

“Every year it just blows my mind what kids come up with,” organizer Sharon Frazier said. “This is a very safe venue for them to showcase their artistic talents in just a wonderful day.”

Guitarman Studios, Clowns-On-Call, Nittany Dreamers, State College Suzuki Program, Students of the Music Academy, Central Pennsylvania Dance Workshop, Centre Dance Studio and Dance Academy will also perform during Children and Youth Day.

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Heat

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very dependent on the weather,” he said. “But often times, rainy weather does just as well for us as hot and muggy weather.”

If the weather takes a turn for the worse, Francis said the store

will be ready to sell lots of rain gear.

But if the weather stays hot, the store has posted signs for free water so customers can come in and keep themselves hydrated, Francis said.

The average temperature for State College is about 83 degrees in July, he said, with tempera-

tures this week hovering in the mid to low-80s.

“It’s not going to be a real hot Arts Fest,” Lydick said. “In the beginning, it’s definitely going to be warmer, but as we move into the weekend it’s going to cool down.”

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Concert

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After a full-scale dress rehearsal on Tuesday night with the bands, Miller said he’s ready to sit back and enjoy the show.

His favorite part is when he is able to watch the “final product,” he added. He loves seeing the children transform into rock stars.

Cara Cowser, 16, of State College, agreed with Miller, who is also her stepfather. Cowser

said she is not nervous to sing. She is the lead vocalist for three of the four bands.

“The end performance when we see everything come together [is my favorite part].”

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EVENT SCHEDULE

Ongoing:

Astrofest

8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Wednesday to Saturday, Davey Laboratory

Wednesday:

Guitarman Studios

9:30 a.m., Allen Street

Children and Youth Day Sidewalk Sale

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., South Allen Street

Clowns-On-Call

10 a.m. on the Old Main Lawn

Images 2010 Exhibition

10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the HUB-Robeson Galleries

Nittany Dreamers

11 a.m. on the Festival Shell Stage

State College Suzuki Program

11 a.m., Allen Street

National Marionette Theatre presents Hansel & Gretel

11:30 a.m. & 2 p.m., Schwab Auditorium

Students of the Music Academy

12:30 p.m. Allen Street

Central Pennsylvania Dance Workshop

1 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage

Centre County Outstanding Young Woman

2:30 p.m., Allen Street

Centre Dance Studio

2:30 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage

Children & Youth Day Grand Procession

4 p.m. beginning on the Old Main Lawn — distribution of procession pieces will begin at 3:15 p.m.

Dance Academy

4:30 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage

Thursday:

Sidewalk Sale & Exhibition

10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Festival Route on Allen Street

Heritage Brass

12 p.m., Allen Street - brass

Jay Vonada Quintet

2 p.m., Allen Street - jazz

AAA Blues Band

2:30 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage - blues

Folk Justice Band

3:30 p.m., Allen Street - folk rock

Nittany Highland Pipe Band

4:30 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage - bagpipe band

British Phil

5 p.m., Allen Street - folk rock

Joe Balone Trio

6 p.m., Park - jazz

Dirk Quinn Band

6:30 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage - jazz/funk/rock

J.R. and Natalie Band

7 p.m., Allen Street - country/rock

The Arrogant Worms

8 p.m. in the Schwab Auditorium - comedic folk

Pennsylvania Dance Theatre

8 p.m. at the State Theatre

Resonance — sponsored by Qdoba

8:30 p.m. Park — Caribbean jazz/world music

The Chicken Tractor

9 p.m. Allen Street — rural

Cliff Turner Band — sponsored by the Ramada Conference Center

9:30 p.m. on the Festival Shell Stage — R&B

Friday:

Downtown State College Improvement District Italian Street Painting Festival

10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Hiester St.

Images 2010 Exhibition

10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Robeson Gallery

Pure Cane Sugar

12 p.m., Allen Street - Americana

Eli Byrne and Marvin Home

2 p.m., Allen Street - jazz

Triple Take

2:30 p.m., Shell - classical

Kevin Neldig Band

4 p.m., Allen Street - old-time

Blue Sky Mission Club

4:30 p.m., Shell - folk/roots

Tri-Fi

5:30 p.m., Park - jazz

Ted McCloskey & The Hi-Fi's - sponsored by Appalachian Outdoors

6 p.m., Allen Street - indie rock

Christopher Dean Band

6:30 p.m., Shell - soul/R&B

Essence of Joy Alumni Singers sponsored by Barbara Palmer

7 p.m., State College Presbyterian Church - gospel

Cartoon - sponsored by Gemini Enterprises, Black Walnut Body Shop, House Wire, Inc., Brown & Associates

7:30 p.m. in the Schwab Auditorium - folk

Vinegar Creek Constituency

7:30 p.m., Park - bluegrass

Billy Bauer Band

8 p.m., Allen Street - acoustic rock

Simple Gifts

9 p.m., State College Presbyterian Church - ethnic folk

Slimfit

9 p.m., Shell - country rock

Straight Drive

9:30 p.m., Park - bluegrass

The Ultra Kings

10 p.m., Allen Street

Family Brew

11 p.m., Shell - sing-a-long

