

DALLAS HARVEST FESTIVAL

Contest takes on new direction

By SARAH HITE
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The Good Gourd Contest of the Dallas Harvest Festival hasn't changed much since it started back in 2006 - it was always an amateur baking contest utilizing fresh or canned pumpkin.

This year the contest will carve a new era in the festival's history.

The Good Gourd Contest has been changed to an amateur pumpkin and gourd decorating competition. Contest chairperson Karen Fiorello said festival-goers were asking for a change this year to get everyone involved in the fun, including children.

"We wanted to get all age groups involved and we tried to keep with something in theme with the harvest time of year, and now kids naturally go to pumpkin carving," said Fiorello.

The contest's rules are laden with safety precautions - only certain age groups are allowed to carve. Fiorello said this measure allows children between the ages of 4 and 7 to be safe while decorating at their own skill level.

Other age groups include 8 to 10 year olds, 11 to 15 year olds and 16 and older. First, second, third and honorable mention prizes will be awarded within each age group.

Fiorello said three judges, in-

cluding two art teachers from local school districts and one from a local art studio, will choose the winners. A \$25 prize will be awarded to the first place winner in each age group.

Participants' creations will be on display at the George M. Dallas Lodge on Main Street throughout the festival. Pumpkin decorators should bring their carved creations to the George M. Dallas Lodge between the hours of 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. for their decor to be judged. Judging will occur at 11 a.m., and winners will be announced on the main stage during the festival.

Winners will be photographed in front of the George M. Dallas Lodge on Main Street during the festival. Fiorello said the contest will have a family theme and urges participants to keep that in mind.



Rita Barna, left, of Dallas, and Becky Sims, of Shavertown, look over fall floral items at the Holiday Treasures booth at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.

"We don't want any inappropriate entries," she said. "This is a family-themed event."

She hopes the change of con-

test rules will encourage all festival-goers from youth to adult participate in the fun.

"We're always looking to do

something new and exciting, and this just seemed like an easy progression," she said of the contest's change.

Only this year's participation will tell if the contest will continue next year.

"I hope it does," said Fiorello.

Generous business support keeps festival going

Unwavering support from community keeps annual event rocking.

By SARAH HITE
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The Dallas Harvest Festival has always been able to rock Main Street due to the generous support of local businesses in the Back Mountain.

Carol Wall, chairperson of the festival development committee, said businesses really enjoy taking responsibility for certain aspects of the festival, from the Le-with and Freeman Main Stage to the Frontier Communications sponsorship of the Kiss the Pig Contest and new community stage.

"I can't say I've ever approached a business that didn't want to participate," Wall said.

Businesses continue to sponsor the event every year, part of the reason why the annual event continues.

Rich Fufuro, one of the founding members of the fest, said the first year in 2003, due to charging vendors a modest fee, the festival committee "broke even" on costs.

The overarching point in having vendors pay for space is to defray the cost for festival-goers who want to participate in all the fun.

Wall said this is especially important when it comes to kids' events at the festival. The Committee to Re-Elect Senator Lisa Baker is sponsoring the Kids' Corner again, allowing parents to keep the youngsters busy without emptying their wallets.

"From the beginning, the Dallas Harvest Festival has been about bringing enthusiasm and interest to our own local community, and highlighting things about the Back Mountain, including businesses and our community downtown," said Wall.

There are even sponsors that don't always have their name attached to a fixture at the festival - Hilbert's Equipment and Welding in Dallas helps out by aiding vendors haul materials to and from the grounds.

Emmanuel Bus Lines has also jumped on board to offer shuttle services to the festival from the Twin Stacks Shopping Center

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Dallas Harvest Festival is still looking for volunteers for the big day. Contact the Dallas Borough offices at 675-1389 to see how you can help.

along Memorial Highway.

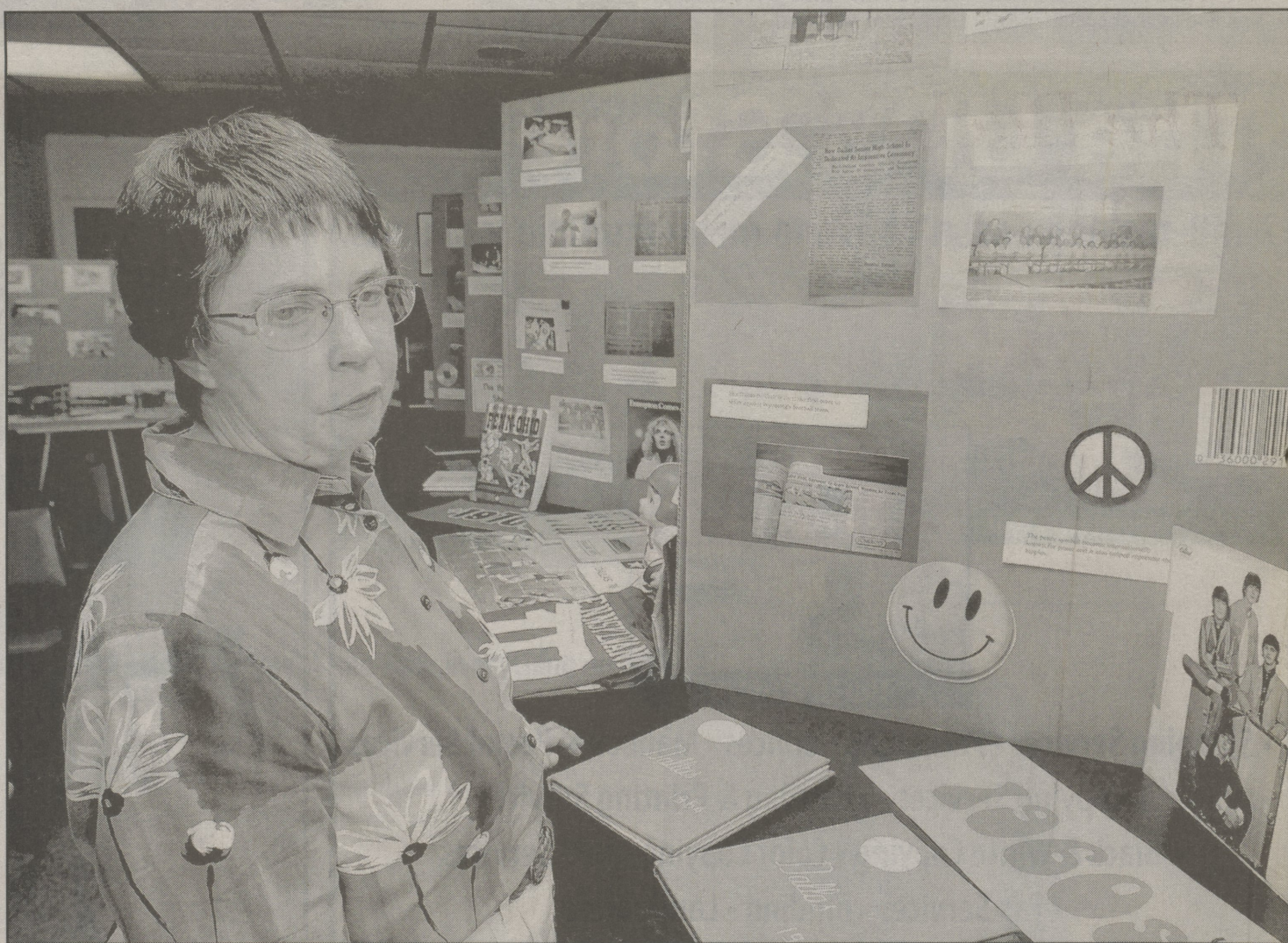
Wall said all these donations of time and effort ensure the soaring success of the Dallas Harvest Festival each year.

"We try to do two things: we try to bring awareness to sponsors and offer publicity as a Back Mountain business and this helps to defray costs of having the event," she said.

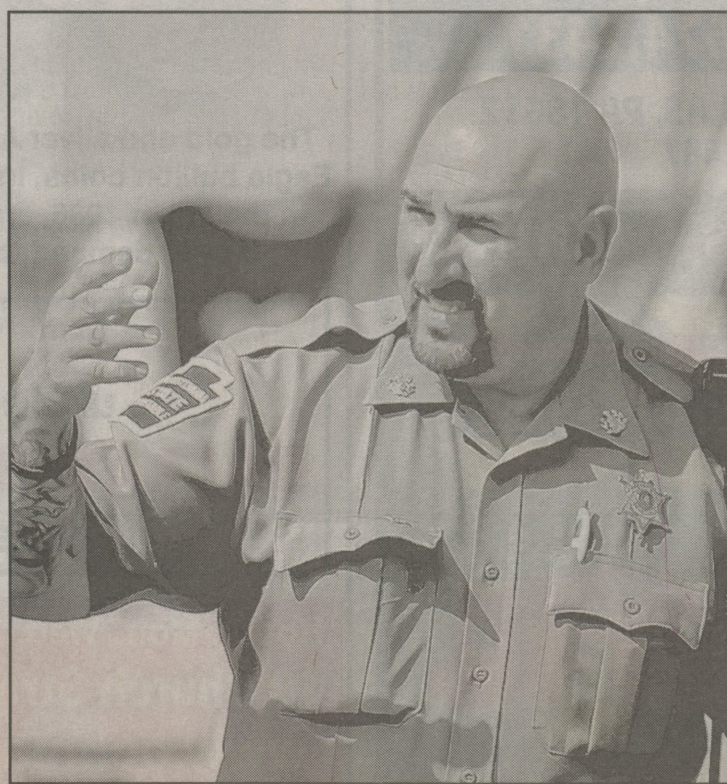
Dallas Borough also plays a big role in organizing the event, from providing police officers to direct traffic to closing roads in order to keep vendors and the public safe.

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Carol Wall
Development Committee chairperson



Pat Peiffer, of Dallas, looks at the 'Through the years ... Life and Times at Dallas High' exhibit at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.



Constable Pete Fischer, of Ashley, keeps traffic flowing smoothly at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.

FREE SHUTTLE/PARKING
To The Dallas Harvest Festival
Sun. Sept. 18 • 1-6PM
Parking at Misericordia University
& Twin Stack Complex

Compliments of
Emanuel Bus Service

