

2023 Applefest  
Schedule of  
*events*

Pages 16-17

# Applefest

## What to expect at the 51st Applefest?

### Crowd pleasers return for another year

By Sharon Stone

This year will be the 51<sup>st</sup> annual St. John Applefest, one of the largest festivals in the tri-county area. The festival runs from Thursday, Sept. 14 through Sunday, Sept. 17 on the grounds of St. John the Evangelical Catholic Church in Fenton.

Festival hours on Thursday and Friday are 3 to 11 p.m. Saturday festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday festival hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival kicks off with a blessing at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14.

Miriam Sage, co-chair of the Applefest committee with her husband Ryan, said since the return of the traditional Applefest in 2022, post-COVID for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,

See **APPLEFEST** on 21



The 51st annual St. John the Evangelical Catholic Church's Applefest in Fenton is known for apple pies, apple desserts and the famous auction.



An employee of Skerbeck Family Carnival looks for the next prize to select for a player at the "Fishin' Hole" at a past St. John Applefest. **Submitted photos**

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A team of apple pie makers peel, core and slice apples for Applefest pies. **Submitted photos**



These sliced apples are the main ingredient in the apple desserts that will be available at this year's Applefest.

## Apples are stars of the show at annual festival

From pies, crisps and other treats, attendees sure to find their favorites

By Sharon Stone

What would Applefest be without apples? Maybe just another fall festival.

This will be the 51st anniversary of Applefest on the grounds of St. John the Evangelist Church in Fenton. This time of year coincides with the apple harvest so it is a natural combination.

Pat Lockwood, finance chair of Applefest, and Miriam Sage, chair of Applefest with her husband Ryan, said Applefest pie makers use a mixture of Jonathan and Washington apples.

The Applefest committee purchased more than 100 bushels of apples from Spicer Orchards to prepare apple crisps and over 1,200 pies, including frozen pies.

Those who think their apple pie recipes and baking skills are the best can enter their pie in the Applefest judging, which will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17. Winning apple pies will be

auctioned off to the highest bidders.

In years past, some pies have fetched several thousand dollars from competitive bidders. Proceeds benefit St. John Church and the many programs the Fenton church offers. How much will the winning pies go for this year?

Lockwood said the apple order from Spicer Orchards was picked up Friday, Sept. 8.

A team of pie makers do all the baking for the pies, crisps and other treats for sale.

The pie making contest is a very popular tradition at Applefest. Lockwood said there are typically 16 or so pie makers that enter their favorite apple pie recipes and enter the contest. These pies will be judged Sunday afternoon. The winning pies are then auctioned off to the highest bidder.

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# Sold out golf scramble starts annual festival

Family holds outing in memory of Ron Lockwood, proceeds go to Applefest

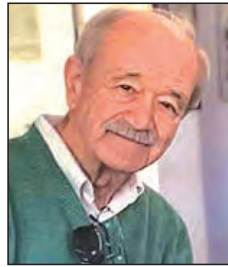
By Sharon Stone

Mark your calendars so that you won't miss one moment of the 51<sup>st</sup> St. John Applefest. The annual festival runs from Sept. 14-17.

As a pre-festival event, the St. John Golf Outing in memory of Ron Lockwood was held Friday, Sept. 7 at Coyote Preserve Golf Club. He died Nov. 5, 2019. This golf outing started in August 2020, during the height of the pandemic since an outdoor activity was one of few activities deemed safe

to participate in. It's held to remember Ron Lockwood, Pat Lockwood's late husband. Pat also is mayor pro tem of the city of Fenton.

The Lockwoods have been longtime members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Ron loved to golf. Their entire family is involved with the golf outing and proceeds from the golf scramble go to Applefest.



Ron Lockwood

Lockwood said this was their fourth year of holding this outing. They had 36 teams. She said golfers were treated to tons of goodies at each of the holes thanks to generous sponsors. She said they

had some really good auction items as well.

"We've had terrific support," she said.

# Get your running shoes ready

Several road races planned for Saturday of Applefest 2023

By Sharon Stone

A major part of Applefest is the Road Race, which is Saturday, Sept. 16. The 10K run begins at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K run at 8:15 a.m., 5K walk at 8:15 a.m., 1-mile run at 9 a.m. and the ¼-mile kids fun run at 9:30 a.m. All races start and finish in front of the St. John Catholic Church on Adelaide Street and run throughout the Fenton area. The route is flat, fast and 100% paved roads.



After the race, runners return to St. John's for the award ceremony, pancake breakfast and Applefest. Race participants will receive a discount at the pancake breakfast.

Awards will be given to male and female top three finishers. Top three finishers in each age group will receive a medal. The Awards Ceremony will be held in the Entertainment Tent during the pancake breakfast at 10 a.m.



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# 'The Padre's Chili' back by popular demand

What would Applefest be without Fr. Harvey's famous pot of chili?

By Sharon Stone

It's a big job and an important job — making chili, that is. However, it's not just any chili, it is Fr. David Harvey's famous recipe for "the Padre's chili."

Attendees of the annual St. John Applefest in Fenton can take comfort that they will have the opportunity to enjoy a bowl of hot chili, just as they have been since 1979.

Applefest kicks off with an opening blessing at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14.

In 2017, Fr. Harvey turned over the reins and recipe of his famous chili. He's still involved though since retiring from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton in 2013.

After taking over in 2017, John Starrs and Jack Topolinski are now co-chairs of the making "the Padre's chili." They work side by side with Fr. Harvey.

On Thursday, Sept. 7, the chili makers began their prep work, which included 18 bushels of tomatoes, onions and peppers. Starrs said they'll scald the tomatoes, take the skins off and cook them to health department standards. Once they're cooked, they cool them to begin the process of making the Padre's chili.

Cooking the ground beef was done over the weekend and on Monday, the chili making team started combining all of the ingredients and seasonings to cook. Once cooked, the chili is put in the cooler.

Starrs estimates this batch made nearly 200 gallons of chili or more. He said last year they sold out. Chili can be bought and eaten at Applefest or it can be bought for take-out.

The Padre's chili has been an

Applefest favorite for years. "We don't skimp on the chili," Starrs said. All of the fresh produce for the chili comes from Starrs Lakeview Farm in Linden. Starrs Farm also supplies the chicken and sweet corn for Applefest dinners.

Starrs said he's helped Fr. Harvey with chili making for 14 years but has gotten more involved in recent years. He said Topolinski has been very involved for the last five years. "He's a critical partner," he said.

After the chili is completely done and cooled, they'll move it over to the walk-in coolers at the school and then the trailer cooler at Applefest and cook more as demand requires.

Since the beginning, the Padre's chili recipe has not changed.

Below is the famous recipe . . .

## THE PADRE'S CHILI

### INGREDIENTS

10 lbs. lean ground beef  
 10 cups diced onion  
 7 cups diced green pepper  
 1/3 cup sugar  
 1 bottle Worcestershire sauce  
 A scant 8 ounces of a cup of salt  
 1/3 to 1/4 cup black pepper  
 1, 8-ounce container tomato paste  
 5-7 quarts fresh stewed tomatoes  
 1 No. 10 can pinto beans (equals six 15 oz. cans)  
 1 1/2 cans No. 10 chili beans (equals nine 15 oz. cans)  
 A scant 8 ounces of chili powder (mixture of hot and medium)  
 5-6 bay leaves (removed before serving)

### PREPARATION:

Brown the meat first and drain the juices. Mix all other ingredients together and add to meat mixture. Cook for three hours.



Jack Topolinski (left), Fr. David Harvey and John Starrs lead the chili-making committee for Applefest. Submitted photo

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# Applefest Committee

Miriam and Ryan Sage lead team of dedicated volunteers

By Sharon Stone

To pull off one of the biggest festivals in the tri-county area, it takes a nearly endless number of active volunteers.

Preparing for the 51<sup>st</sup> annual Applefest, hosted by St. John the Evangelical Catholic Church in Fenton, is no small feat. Once an Applefest is over, all aspects are reviewed and tweaked for the next year.

There are committees for everything and sometimes committees within committees.

This year's co-chairs are Ryan and Miriam Sage. They have the responsibility of overseeing everything.

Patricia Lockwood is the finance chair overseeing expenses and revenue. Other Applefest committee members include the following:

John Dasky's committee is tasked with gathering gifts, marketing and working with the auto dealerships for the big prizes of vehicles.

Susie Temple and Kim Heethuis's committee is in charge of all food orders, overseeing the food throughout the festival and doing whatever else needs to be done.

Tom and Suzanne Danner are in charge of dinners ensuring everything, including the food trucks, complies with the Genesee County Health Department.

Mike and Brianne Johnson's committee is in charge of set-up and take-down of tents, chairs, electricity and more. This has become an enormous job, Lockwood said.

After taking over in 2017, John Starrs and Jack Topolinski are now co-chairs of the making of "the Pa-

dre's chili." They work side by side with Fr. Harvey.

Lockwood said overall, the Applefest committee is a "great committee."

Many parishioners of St. John and students from St. John School volunteer their services to make for a well-run and fun festival that benefits St. John and the numerous events and organizations it helps.

## Security set for Applefest

By Sharon Stone

As in years past, the Applefest committee is again working with the Fenton Police Department with regards to safety and security at the 51<sup>st</sup> annual St. John Applefest, which begins tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 14.

Patricia Lockwood, finance chair

of the Applefest committee, said Fenton police will provide security for festival-goers throughout the event.

Fenton Police Chief Jeffrey Cross said the Fenton Police Department will be on site to handle any situation that arises.

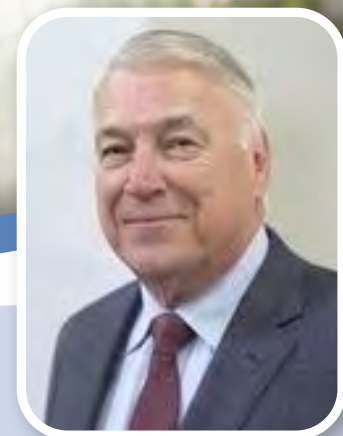
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## 2023 SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

FESTIVAL HOURS | 3:00PM-11:00PM

3PM .....Opening Blessing

3PM-11PM .....Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Pizza, Elephant Ears,  
Apple Pies, Coffee & Donuts, Padre's Chili  
Children's Games, Face Painting, Cake Walk

3PM-8PM .....Treasures in the Tent  
Raffle Tent

3PM-11PM .....Entertainment Tent (Cover Charge Starts @ 7PM)

8PM-11PM .....**Jon Fett Quartet**

*Unfortunately the fireworks show for this year has been canceled.*

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

FESTIVAL HOURS | 3:00PM-11:00PM

3PM-11PM .....Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Pizza, Elephant Ears,  
Apple Pies, Coffee & Donuts, Padre's Chili  
Children's Games, Face Painting, Cake Walk

3PM-8PM .....Treasures in the Tent  
Raffle Tent

3PM-7PM .....Farmer's Market - crafters and other vendors

4PM-7PM .....Fish Dinner

3PM-12AM .....Entertainment Tent (Cover Charge Starts @ 7PM)

8PM-12AM .....**After It All**

## This 2023 St. John Applefest Schedule of Events

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH****FESTIVAL HOURS | 10:00AM-11:00PM**

8AM ..... 10K Road Race, 5K Walk & Run  
 8:30-11AM ..... Pancake Breakfast  
 3PM-11PM ..... Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Pizza, Elephant Ears,  
 Apple Pies, Coffee & Donuts, Padre's Chili  
 Children's Games, Face Painting, Cake Walk  
 3PM-8PM ..... Treasures in the Tent  
 Raffle Tent  
 10AM-7PM ..... Farmer's Market - crafters and other vendors  
 2PM-7PM ..... Chicken Dinner  
 (Adults \$13, Children 12 and under \$8)  
 3PM-12AM ..... Entertainment Tent (Cover Charge Starts @ 7PM)  
 8PM-12AM ..... **WestFall**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH****FESTIVAL HOURS | 11:00AM-6:00PM**

8:30-11AM ..... Pancake Breakfast  
 3PM-11PM ..... Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Pizza, Elephant Ears,  
 Apple Pies, Coffee & Donuts, Padre's Chili  
 Children's Games, Face Painting, Cake Walk  
 3PM-8PM ..... Treasures in the Tent  
 11AM - 5PM ..... Farmer's Market - crafters and other vendors  
 2PM ..... Apple Pie Judging and Auction  
 1-4PM ..... Spaghetti Dinner  
 12-6PM ..... Entertainment Tent - Televised Game Day  
 5PM ..... Raffle Drawing

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# You won't leave hungry at this year's Applefest

By Sharon Stone

With the food options at this year's Applefest, it's highly unlikely that you would leave hungry. From traditional carnival food, to chili, doughnuts, pancakes, chicken, fish and a variety of food truck choices, there's something for everyone.

The ever-popular Happy Apple Tent, "the Padre's Chili" and Elephant Ears prepared by the parishioners also will be returning for another Applefest.

Attendees will have fish, chicken and spaghetti dinners from which to choose in the dinner tent.

On Friday, **fish dinners** served by the Knights of Columbus will be available from 4 to 7 p.m.

On Saturday, **chicken dinners** served by the John Starrs family will be available from 2 to 7 p.m. Starrs Farm provides the chicken as well as all of the fresh produce used in

"the Padre's chili."

On Sunday, **spaghetti dinners** served by members of the Faricy, Dockins and Carpenter families will be available from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Food trucks** will be on site again with a nice selection of menu items.

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## Treasures in the Tent

Large tent sale filled  
with wide assortment of  
items, big selection of  
used books

By Sharon Stone

Countless items are available for purchase at Treasures in a Tent, including a large selection of used books.

Applefest Finance Chair Pat Lockwood and Applefest Committee Co-Chair Miriam Sage said this sale of donated items is one of the most successful fundraising activities of Applefest.

They said in the past, they've raised as much as \$17,000 from the "garage sale" held this year in the Treasures in the Tent.

Lockwood said Laura Starrs runs the Treasures in the Tent, which was set up last week. Last Thursday, Lockwood said, "It's really getting full. It's really looking good."

The Treasures in the Tent will undoubtedly be a place where families can peruse the items for sale and look for things the kids might be able to use for school.

Treasures in the Tent will be open 3 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14 and Friday, Sept. 15; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17.



# Applefest lapel pins to be sold again

By Sharon Stone

Last year for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Applefest, Ronny Medawar, owner of Medawar Jewelers, sponsored an Applefest commemorative lapel pin that was sold to raise funds for St. John the Evangelical Catholic Church in Fenton.

The 500 pins last year were popular and sold out quickly. They were designed and created by Chelsea Mills, owner of Behind Your Design.

Applefest Finance Chair Patricia Lockwood said this year's collectible lapel pins will surely be a hit again, especially for people who collect unique treasures. They will be sold for \$5 each.

The 51<sup>st</sup> Applefest lapel pins were designed and made by Mills and Medawar sponsored them.

"Behind Your Design is honored to have been selected to design the commemorative pins for Applefest again in 2023," Mills said. "It is a fantastic opportunity to create a special keepsake for our community.



Combined efforts by Behind Your Design and Medawar Jewelers has provided unique, collectible pins for St. John Applefest.

Working with clients I've known for many years, like Ronny Medawar and Pat Lockwood, is a lot of fun because I have a strong understanding of their ideas and am able to bring them to life.

"This collaboration results in a fantastic design every year which community members will be able to cherish for years to come."



Chelsea Mills, owner of Behind Your Design, holds a 2023 St. John Applefest commemorative lapel pin that she designed and made. The pins will be sold during this year's Applefest for \$5. Medawar Jewelers sponsored the pins.

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## APPLEFEST

Continued from Page 9

Applefest has many features returning for the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

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Attendees will have fish, chicken and spaghetti dinners from which to choose.

On Friday, **fish dinners** served by the Knights of Columbus will be available from 4 to 7 p.m.

On Saturday, **chicken dinners** served by the John Starrs family will be available from 2 to 7 p.m.

On Sunday, **spaghetti dinners** served by members of the Faricy, Dockins and Carpenter families will be available from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Food trucks** also will be on site again. Uncle Ray's Dairy Land will also be serving delicious treats.

The **Road Race** on Saturday, Sept. starts at 8 a.m. The races will be followed by a Pancake Breakfast, which is also held on Sunday.

The **Entertainment Tent** features live music at night. A \$5 cover charge begins at 7 p.m. On Thursday, the Jon Fett Quartet plays from 8 to 11 p.m. On Friday, the band After It All plays from 8 p.m. to midnight. On Saturday, the band WestFall plays from 8 p.m. to midnight.

College and NFL football games will be televised in the entertainment tent.

**Children's Games** include face painting and the popular Cake Walk.

Be sure to check out all of the donated prizes in the **Raffle Tent** all weekend. The raffle drawing will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday at 5 p.m.

**Treasures in the Tent also known as Attic Treasures** is filled with a variety of items for every age. They have a substantial number of used books, as well as small appliances and more. Hours of Treasures in the Tent on Thursday and Friday are 3 to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Applefest **Farmer's Market** will feature crafters and vendors. Friday hours are 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The **Apple Pie Judging and Auction** beings at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17.



The midway returns with tons of fun for the entire family at the 2023 St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's Applefest beginning Thursday, Sept. 14.

Submitted photo



This aerial photograph of St. John's Applefest in Fenton by Skerbeck Family Carnival shows the expansive layout of the annual festival. Submitted photo



All of the traditional Applefest features, including a craft bazaar and farmers market, await guests at Applefest 2023. Times file photo

## CARNIVAL RIDES

Carnival rides will be provided by Skerbeck Entertainment. According to Skerbeck.com, Skerbeck Entertainment Group takes its safety program and responsibilities as a carnival midway provider seriously.

Policies, guidelines, and procedures have been designed to assure business is conducted in a manner that provides a safe environment for customers and workers. The safety program consists of four key elements — equipment inspections, equipment maintenance, employee training, and customer education.

## EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

Ride inspections occur every day prior to opening by two different in-house state licensed inspectors. In addition, third-party consultants inspect and perform non-destructive testing of equipment on an annual basis. Skerbeck is also inspected and licensed by state officials allowing the company to operate in Michigan and Indiana. Each state has mandated safety inspection codes per state legislation.

## EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Skerbeck believes that a robust preventative maintenance schedule for rides is an important component of safe equipment operation. Manufacturers' scheduled maintenance procedures are performed.

## EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Safety coordinators receive technical qualifications through training sponsored by the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) and Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers International (AIMS).

## CUSTOMER EDUCATION HEIGHT SIGNAGE

Skerbeck utilizes professional signs at each ticket box as well as at each ride to communicate height and weight requirements. It is important for customers to understand that the ride manufacturers and insurance companies establish the height and weight requirements in order to ensure the safety of midway customers, children in particular.





# Entertainment Tent

Who's performing, schedule, costs

By Sharon Stone

A popular feature of St. John's Applefest is the Entertainment Tent.

The Entertainment Tent features live music and adult beverages. A \$5 cover charge begins at 7 p.m.

## LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

On Thursday, the band Jon Fett Quartet will play from 8 to 11 p.m.

On Friday, the band After It All plays from 8 p.m. to midnight.

On Saturday, the band WestFall plays from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Beverages are available from John P O'Sullivan Distributing, Inc. and Pepsi. Water donations are provided by Beauchamp Water Treatment Solutions.

*We proudly support St. John parish.*

Have fun at  
**Applefest!**



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# Applefest fun



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- FREE ice cream
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- Back-to-school giveaways for kids
- Health care enrollment resources
- ASL interpreters will be provided



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Will show individuals how to identify an opioid overdose and safely administer the reversal drug, Naloxone. **Free Naloxone Kits with training.** Provided by Genesee Community Health Center.

**CLOTHING GIVEAWAY**

FREE Adult and children's clothing closet at event provided by R.L. Jones Community Outreach Center.



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*Come dine with us during*  
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