

Friends prepare for 16th Annual Pumpkin Festival

By Nora Cardec

JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

Cooler temperatures, as well the leaves changing colors announce fall, but also announce, for townspeople, the annual pumpkin festival and craft fair.

This marks the 16 year of the now traditional event organized by the Friends of the

and families to participate. Categories will include children: ages 5 and under; ages six to nine; and ages 10 to 15 and then one for families.

The food will be provided by various nonprofit organizations in the community including the Girl Scouts, the Ashby Historical Society, the Masons' Square and Com-

Friends of the Ashby Free Public Library and organizers of the annual Pumpkin Fest from left are Katy Sutton-Brown, Debbie Moylan, Christy Doody, Mary O'Friel, Kay Kenney, Tricia McPherson, with her son Evan; Debbie Morse Ladue and Michelle Alford.

JOURNALPHOTO/
NORA CARDEC



Ashby Free Public Library. This year it will be held Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Town Common.

"It's the biggest event in the community run by the Friends of the Library," said Katy Sutton-Brown, event coordinator.

As in past years, the family event will feature baked goods, crafters, live music, fire truck and ambulance tours, games, face painting, food and plenty of pumpkin contests.

This year the festival will also include hay and pony rides, storyteller and children's book author, Emily Chetkowski; and a pumpkin-rolling contest for children.

"It's highly anticipated," said Michelle Alford, another member of the Friends of the Library. "I think the children really look forward to the event each year."

The annual pumpkin-decorating contest will provide more opportunities for children

pass Club and the Congregational Church.

Sutton-Brown said everyone is excited about this year's event given the funds raised will go toward the programs and activities of the new library, which is set to open Oct. 15

In the past, the Friends of the Library have raised from \$2,000 to \$4,000 from each festival. The money raised has always gone back to the library including the donation of the reference section at the new library, said Sutton-Brown.

"The best thing about the pumpkin festival is that it's a community event run by the friends," said Debbie Moylan, member of the Friends of the Library and of the festival organizing committee.

In case of rain, the event will be held Oct. 8 from 12 to 4 p.m.

Pumpkin Festival & Craft Fair Schedule

October 7, 2006

- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Seasonal Craft Show & Sale Featuring area crafters & artisans
- Pumpkin games & activities for families and children: Pony rides, hay rides, games, fire engine tours, ambulance tours and a "Pocket Person" with a surprise in every pocket.
- 10 a.m. — John Brodie Memorial 5k Walk/Run Race Sponsored by the Ashby Grange
- Registration begins at 9:30 a.m./race at 10 a.m.
- 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. — 7 Coyotes Band
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — Ramblin' Floyds
- 12 - 1:15 p.m. — Pumpkin Decorating Contest Judging
- 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. — Double Vision Juggling and Entertainment Group
- 12 - 4 p.m. — Agricultural and Craft Exhibits - Ashby Grange Hall
- Entries accepted 8 - 10 a.m.
- 1 p.m. — Tractor Parade - part of Ashby Grange fair
- Participants gather at Ashby Elementary School
- 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Apple Pie Social
- Hosted by the Ashby Grange, Grange Hall
- 1:15 - 1:30 p.m. — Book Reading for Children of All Ages
- 1:30 - 2 p.m. — Pumpkin Rolling Contest
- Judges announce the winners of the Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. — Chelmsford Community Jazz Ensemble
- 2:45 - 4:00 p.m. — Damascus Road
- 5 - 7 p.m. — Harvest Supper
- Ashby First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church

All events take place on and around the Ashby Town Common, Main Street, Rt. 119

* rain date is Sunday, Oct. 8 from noon to 4 p.m.

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Annual Haunted Happenings: Spooky Walk to be held

The Third Annual Haunted Happening and Spooky Walk will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the 4-H Camp Middlesex, 1031 Erickson Road.

This fun, family-oriented event features a ghostly guided walk through Haunted Hill. Come in costume and enjoy scary stories in front of the fire, scarecrows, pumpkins, games, face painting, crafts, warm drinks and delicious treats, and a costume parade at 7:30 p.m. Fun for all ages; held rain or shine.

Tickets will be sold at the entrance: Adults \$7; under 12 or over 60 \$5; under 3 free. Admission includes five game tickets. Proceeds to support Camp Middlesex and County 4-H Programs.

For more information, visit their Web site at www.campmiddlesex.com or call (978) 386-7704. In a continuing effort to support local food banks, there will be a box at the bridge for dry food/can donations.

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