

News from Genoa Main Street



Genoa Main Street, Inc.
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Director Offers Tips:

7 Ways to Have Fun at Genoa's Harvest Moon Festival

Genoa Harvest Moon Festival and Back Roads Tractor Run returns Saturday, September 25 and Mim Evans, executive director of Genoa Main Street, Inc. which hosts the event, offers tips on having fun.

This year's event features the Open Air Market, crafts, tractor run, a storefront museum, live entertainment, food, games, animals, crafts and more fun for all ages. Sponsors of the event are Waste Management, KishHealth Systems, State Farm Bank and Illini Farms.

Evans offers these tips on how to have fun:

1. Make or Spend Some Money at the Market

The fourth Open Air Market of the season opens at 9 a.m. and runs to 2 p.m. Featuring fresh produce, flea market treasures, crafts and new products, there are plenty of opportunities to find both the expected and the unexpected. Market vendors and crafters can reserve space by calling the Main Street office at 815 784-6961 or emailing genoamainstreet@atcyber.net.

2. Enjoy the Back Roads Tractor Run

Antique tractors will be on display downtown in the morning, then at 10 a.m. they will leave on a 20-mile-run along Genoa's back roads. They will be welcomed back into town about noon with a police escort and parade down Main Street. Tractor drivers also can compete in a variety of contests and games during the afternoon. Tractor owners can call 815 784-6961 or e-mail genoamainstreet@atcyber.net to sign up to participate. The cost is \$25 per tractor and includes lunch and a souvenir cap.

3. Visit the "Main Street Museum"

Main Street will become an outdoor museum during start the week before and through Harvest Moon Festival. Participating businesses will display collections and artifacts belonging to local residents. Antique toys, dolls, handmade wooden tractors, clothing, artwork and other items will be displayed in windows on Main Street. Each display will be accompanied by a sign explaining the items and identifying the owner.

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4. Make a Scarecrow

Have fun turning loose straw and old clothes into a scarecrow to take home. Everything you need will be provided for \$20. You can make either a child-size or adult-size scarecrow. You can even create an entire family of scarecrows for your yard!

5. Visit the Farm Animals

All kinds of farm animals will get to spend the day downtown. For details on bringing your own animals to town, call the Main Street office at 815 784-6961.

6. Play!

There will be a giant bouncy clown to jump in thanks to the generosity of Everything Floral. Similar to a Moon Walk, it will be located in the lot next to the floral shop. Kids also will be able to drive a miniature tractor, search a haystack for treats and toys and have their face painted. By popular demand, the City of the Future returns for kids of all ages to build more buildings, parks, roads, bridges and more.

7. Listen to Live Music

Wally Mulso will perform on Emmett Street from 1 to 2 p.m. courtesy of Prairie State Winery.

Volunteers Needed

Since Harvest Moon Festival is a community event, you can help either ahead of time and on Saturday, September 25. Help out with patching clothes for the scarecrows, setting up displays or putting up posters in advance or staffing information booths, helping with crafts, supervising games or many other tasks on the day of the event.

This is truly a community festival and your help is needed to make it a success. Call the Main Street office at 815 784-6961 or e-mail the office at genoamainstreet@atcyber.net.

“Even if you don’t want to volunteer, or after you do,” said Evans, “come downtown on Saturday, September 25 to watch the tractors, see the animals, make a scarecrow, eat some food, hear some music, check out the Main Street window museums, play some games, shop at the market and have lots of fun!”

Genoa Main Street, Inc. is a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving Genoa's historic heritage and small town wholesomeness while promoting economic development and downtown improvements.

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RED POWER FUN – Ashley (left) and Cody Peterson of Genoa atop one of the several tractors in last year’s Back Roads Tractor Run at Genoa’s 2009 Harvest Moon Festival in downtown Genoa. This year’s event on Saturday, September 25 will include tractors, farm animals, live entertainment, games, face painting and Museum on Main Street as well as crafters and the Open Air Market. Hosted by Genoa Main Street, Inc., the event celebrates Genoa’s agricultural heritage. Sponsors of the year’s festival are Waste Management, KishHealth Systems, State Farm Bank and Illini Farms.