

News from Genoa Main Street



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Be a Part of the Fun!

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

There is much that is new about this year's Harvest Moon Festival, beginning with many more ways for area residents to both have fun and get involved. Genoa Main Street, Inc. is planning a week-long celebration of the area's rural heritage from Saturday, September 20, through Saturday, September 27.

A tractor run, an outdoor museum, entertainment, food, games, animals, crafts and more will offer fun for all ages. RE/MAX Classic of Genoa and Custom Aluminum Products are generously sponsoring this year's Harvest Moon Festival. Here are the many ways you can be a part of this year's event.

1. Make Some Money at the Market

Saturday, September 27, kicks off with an Open Air Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring fresh produce, flea market treasures and new products, the markets have been popular all season long. A craft fair will be held in conjunction with the market. Market vendors and crafters can reserve space by calling the Main Street office at 815 784-6961 or emailing genoamainstreet@atcyber.net.

2. Join the Back Roads Tractor Run

The first annual Back Roads Tractor Run will debut during this year's festival on Saturday, September 27. Antique tractors will be on display downtown in the morning. At noon the tractors will take off on a ten-mile-run along Genoa's back roads. They will be welcomed back into town with a police escort as they parade down Main Street. Tractor owners can call 815 784-6961 to sign up to participate by September 19. The cost is \$20 per tractor and includes a T-shirt and lunch.

3. Show Off your Collections at the Main Street Museum

Main Street will become an outdoor museum for the week before and including Harvest Moon Festival. Beginning September 20, participating businesses will display historic collections of local residents. Antique toys, dolls, handmade wooden tractors, clothing and other items will be found in windows up and down the street. Each display will be accompanied by a sign explaining the items and identifying the owner. Everyone is invited to lend an item or collection to be displayed. Items and collections should relate to the history or agriculture of the Genoa area. To arrange to display your treasures, call 815 784-6961 or e-mail genoamainstreet@atcybe.net by September 17.

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4. Stomp Grapes

Be sure to try your hand, or rather feet, at grape stomping. Vineyards are one of the newer additions to northern Illinois agriculture, and we are proud to have a winery call Genoa home. Learn how to stomp grapes during Harvest Moon Festival on Saturday, September 27, sponsored by Prairie State Winery.

5. Get Your Free Recipe Book

Visitors to downtown can collect free area recipes and bind them into a book during the week September 20 through Harvest Moon Festival. Pick up free recipe pages at participating businesses. Each business will have a different recipe and the recipes will change daily. By visiting different businesses and on several different days, it will be possible to accumulate many of Genoa's traditional favorites. You also can pick up front and back covers and bind your book. Local residents who would like to contribute a traditional recipe can email it to us at genoamainstreet@atcyber.net, mail it to Genoa Main Street at 327 W. Main St. (2nd floor of Citizens Bank) or drop it off at Main Street office Tuesday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. by September 17.

6. Donate those Old Jeans and Shirts

Once again, visitors will be able to make a take-with scarecrow on Saturday. Your old jeans and long sleeve shirts are needed to clothe the scarecrows. Bring your donated items to the Main Street office or call 815 784-6961 by September 19 to have them picked up. Then come down to the Festival on Saturday and try your hand at making your own scarecrow. Everything you need will be provided for \$20.

7. Treat your Animals to a Day in Town

All kinds of farm animals are invited to spend the day downtown where visitors can enjoy seeing them. Let us know by September 19 what animals you would like to bring and how much space their enclosure requires, and we will see that they have a great spot to enjoy the festivities on Saturday, September the 27.

8. Volunteer

Your help is needed both ahead of time and on Saturday, September 27. Many activities can be done on your own schedule. Help out with patching clothes for the scarecrows, setting up displays, distributing recipes, putting up posters, staffing information booths, serving food, helping with crafts or many other tasks. 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.

9. Come on Down!

If you don't want to volunteer, or after you do, come downtown on Saturday, September 27 to watch the tractors, see the animals, make a scarecrow, eat some food, hear some music, collect your free recipes, check out the Main Street museum, play some games, stomp some grapes, 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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Making your own scarecrow is made easy by Genoa Main Street, Inc. which provides the clothes, straw, frame and face. Here, a participant in last year's Harvest Moon Festival puts the finishing touches on a scarecrow. Like last year, do-it-yourself scarecrows, in both adult and child sizes are just \$20 each.