

A Message from the WTSF President

Wow! Can you believe "It's Festival Time in Tennessee!" The flags are up on Main Street and 22nd. Everyone is sprucing up his or her yard. Strawberries are everywhere and on everything! I can just smell the corndogs... can you? All the excitement of the first full week of May is upon us. It's a week we all look forward to year after year. It sometimes seems that time stands still for the week. Friends come in town, everyone meets on Main to eat dinner (maybe lunch too!), there is live music, carnival lights, kids laughing, parents are all smiles. The 81st annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival will not disappoint!

Chelsea and I have been working since August to make sure the tradition continues. A big thank you to all of the festival volunteers, we could not do it without you! Also the Chamber of Commerce staff works tirelessly year after year- when one festival ends, planning for the next begins.

You will want to make plans and clear your calendar for May 6-12. We begin festival week on Sunday, May 6 with the prayer breakfast at the Humboldt Medical Center at 8 a.m. The breakfast is sponsored by the Humboldt Ministerial Alliance and will feature Hugh Freeze, former Ole Miss football coach. He has a wonderful story of redemption that you will want to hear. Tickets are available at the Chamber. Sunday afternoon will feature the Invitational Art Exhibition. Our director, Bill Hickerson, does a wonderful job bringing art culture to our community.

Monday, May 7 is our Opening Ceremonies at Barker Memorial Stadium. We will give away strawberry shortcake to the first 100 people, be introduced to our royalties and be entertained by local band, No Time Flatt. Chosen as the Bluegrass Band of the year at the Tennessee Music Awards in 2017! You won't want to miss it! Festivities begin at 7:30 p.m., but stick around because at dark you will witness the Fireworks Extravaganza!

Tuesday night our carnival will open and the fun will begin! Also on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. is the Recipe Contest & Taste of West Tennessee at the Opera House. Get your best strawberry recipe ready and come enter the contest and get a taste of what West Tennessee has to offer.

Downtown Main Street is the place to be! Wednesday night features the Bandstand Revue at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Humboldt-Plaza 3 Theater. A local favorite, the atmosphere guarantees to be electric for all ages!

Thursday begins at 10 a.m. with the Junior Floats Parade. The third annual Strawberry Classic Golf Tournament will be held at the Humboldt Golf and Country

Club with lunch at 12 noon and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. There is still time to get your team involved! Thursday night is busy with the Junior Miss Territorial and Miss Teen Territorial Revues at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively at East Elementary School Gymnasium. The Hall of Fame Honoree Reception begins at 5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, and entertainment on Main Street by the King Beez at 7 p.m. What a fun night with something for everyone! Don't forget the carnival!

Friday morning, the granddaddy of them all, our Grand Floats Parade will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the Governor's Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in the Humboldt Medical Center. Come shop at the Strawberry Market on Main (formerly Arts on Main) at the Opera House Event Hall 12-5 p.m. The BBQ Cook Off has a new home at Bailey Park and that begins at 1 p.m. and concludes Saturday afternoon. Entertainment at Bailey Park begins at 8 p.m. with Johnny Mac - Don't miss it! One of the largest Tennessee Walking Horse Shows in the West Tennessee area will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Chalmers Davenport Arena. We also have the Junior Hostess Princess Revue at 5 p.m. and the Hostess Princess Revue at 7 p.m. at the East Elementary School Gymnasium.

Whew! Saturday will wind down a busy and fun-filled week. The 5k/10k Run registration will begin at 7 a.m. with the races to start at 8 a.m. from Bailey Park. The BBQ Cook Off Awards ceremony is set to begin around noon. The Car Show at 8 a.m. at Viking Park will coincide with the Tractor Show beginning at 9 a.m. If you missed the Strawberry Market on Main on Friday, stop by Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Little Miss Territorial Revue is at 11am and Strawberry week will conclude with the Territorial Queens Revue at 6 p.m. - both held at East Elementary School Gymnasium.

Many of my fondest memories coincide with the Strawberry Festival. I have happy tears as I am reminded of these special memories year after year. The sirens start and here comes the deafening sound of the helicopters doing a fly over. The color guard walks by and the crowd stands and I am struck with awe at what a special thing we have here in Humboldt.

What a blessing the freedom is to have this festival that means so much to our community. Here comes the Humboldt High School band and all the princesses and our Strawberry Festival is underway! It is an honor to serve as president of the 81st annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival. My family and I welcome you and invite you to enjoy this week in our town! See you on Main Street!



Melissa

Chelsea

Papa Chuck's

Small Engines

111 N. Central, Humboldt

731-487-0130

