Classic Cars Will Return To The Streets Of Barnesville

It has taken over a year to get things pointed in the general direction of normal. Since March of 2020 we have seen our activities restricted by the coronavirus. Fears about the spread of the virus are diminishing by the day. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has finally given the green light to reopening everything to 100% capacity by the July 4 holiday. In the interim, many restrictions are being liberally loosened.

One of the signs that things are returning to normal is the return of the Barnesville Main Street Program's Show 'n' Shine classic car show on a monthly basis through the summer. That popular classic car show has been a regular feature the second Thursday of each summer month for the past eight

Show 'n' Shine events in the past have drawn anywhere from 60 to 100 classic car and pickup participants to the show which runs from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cars are parked on two of the main business blocks on Front Street in downtown Barnesville. Cars and trucks during that three-hour time frame bring back diagonal parking to downtown Barnesville as proud vehicle owners display their pride and joy.

Do you want to hear the best news. It's all free. There is no charge to register a car or to come and be a spectator. You can kick a few tires and swap a few lies with



If you come downtown on Thursday evening between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. expect to see 60 to a hundred classic vehicles parked diagonally on Front Street. Barnesville Show 'n' Shine classic car

show occurs the second Thursday of each month, May through September. The monthly event is coordinated by Bailey Thompson, Executive Director of the Barnesville Main Street Program.

friends, neignbors and classic car drink establishments downtown will owners. It won't cost you a dime unless you choose to buy something.

There are prizes awarded throughout the evening. Atomic DJ will be back playing vintage music from the '50s and '60s. That music is very familiar to most of the car owners. There will be food available with the Sports Booster Club flipping burgers and the VFW Auxiliary serving tacos in a bag as two of the regulars expected back again. Food and also be open.

There are two awards presented at the end of each Show 'n' Shine. The major sponsor of the month gets to pick their favorite vehicle. There will also be a continuation of the Mayor's Choice Award that will be chosen by Barnesville Mayor Jason

With everything to the exhibitor and spectator free, somebody has to pay the bills. That duty has been undertaken by a number of sponsors which include the Barnesville schedule pulled off with a lot of Cenex General Store, Front Street Mowers and Blowers, Ratzo's Pool Hall, Dean's Bulk Service, the Barnesville Record-Review, Midwest Bank, Barnesville Drug and Hardware, 2 Phase Electric, Red River Communications, Kbro Metal Works, Priority Real Estate, Barnesville Grocery and Norsemen

This is the eighth annual edition of the Barnesville Show 'n' Shine. The first event was an abbreviated

Contracting.

volunteer work and no sponsors in 2014. Since then it has matured into a Barnesville Main Street project.

The event has always been held on a Thursday with the first few years occuring on the first Thursday of the month during the summer. Due to conflicts with other summer car shows, that schedule was later modified to the second Thursday of each month, May through September. The remaining events this year are scheduled on Thursday, June 10; July 8; August 12 and September 9.

Last year the schedule was dramatically reduced. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Show 'n' Shine events were all cancelled from May through August. There was one regular September event scheduled followed by another only a couple of weeks later when Barnesville was honored as KVRR-TV's Town of the Year.

In a typical year, there will be six classic car shows held in Barnesville. There are the five Main Street events, May through September, already mentioned. The July event is usually coordinated with the Clay County Fair in Barnesville that same

There is also the huge Potato Days Car Show held on the grass in McGrath Park as part of Barnesville's big Potato Days festivities held the last weekend in August. That show can draw as many as 300 classic cars depending upon the weather. Classic car owners do not take their babies out in the rain. All of the Potato Days activities were cancelled last year due to the coronavirus but look for them to be back this summer.

We're all hoping for better things this year. With the governor loosening restrictions on most activities last week, we can again look forward to a summer filled with outdoor fun activities.

Ben Schierer Signs Pledge To Help Save Monarchs

With expanding support from various allies, including the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls Mayor Ben Schierer recently signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors Monarch Pledge, committing to 23 actions to help save the declining monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

"I am proud to take the Mayors Monarch Pledge, and I am proud of the partnerships that have formed to make our city pollinator friendly. We look to be a model of what is possible when our local government, schools, and private citizens work together to protect the habitat and raise awareness of the importance of monarchs and other pollinators," Mayor Schierer said.

"An exciting addition to the pledge this year will be Fergus Falls' designation as the first Prairie City USA through Wildlife Forever in St. Paul, Minnesota, as well as working to organize and invite other cities to earn this recognition," stated Karen Terry, member of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Prairie City USA is being modeled after the well-known Tree City USA program. It will provide standards, certification, and outreach materials and will recognize communities that embrace their prairie heritage with plantings and other activities.

Thanks to involvement from United Prairie Foundation, Pebble Lake Golf Course and the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center are recipients of three new ecological habitat area plots. "These sites are heavily planted with a variety of native wildflower species which benefit monarch butterflies and many other insect pollinators and hummingbirds," said John DeVries, president of United Prairie Foundation. "By creating diverse habitats the ecosystem wins, and monarchs continue."

Besides encouraging residents to plant milkweed and other native plants in their yards, other potential projects planned for this year include an additional monarch mural in downtown Fergus Falls and revitalizing the rain garden at Adams

Partners joining the cohort in 2021 include Fergus Falls Public Department, Natural Resources Committee, Community Development Committee, Fergus



Monarch butterfly sculpture in Noyes Park, Fergus Falls, by machine artist Carl Zachmann.

Wetland Falls Management District, United Prairie Foundation, participants include the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls Parks and Recreation Department, and Mayor Schierer.

In its fourth consecutive year committing to the annual pledge, Fergus Falls continues to make strides in creating additional habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. Mayor Schierer's support earned him a position in the Leadership Circle with the National Wildlife Federation and netted the city a 2019 Pollinator Friendly Community Award from the Pollinator Friendly Alliance in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Mayor Schierer became interested in the Mayors Monarch Pledge when and Wildlife Forever. Original Prairie Wetlands Learning Center staff shared an email from the National Wildlife Federation about the program. Prairie Science Class 4th graders then helped write and present a proclamation which Mayor Schierer signed.

"The Mayors Monarch Pledge also grew from a foundation of more than two decades of dedicated monarch conservation and education at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, especially monarch tagging and habitat plantings, which resulted in growing awareness and action in Fergus Falls," said Visitor Services Manager Joanne Ryan at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. Subsequent community activities

include the monarch mural near city hall, monarch bike racks, a monarch festival, and reduced mowing with pollinator plantings such as at Lake Alice Park, at Grotto Lake in Adams Park, and at Kennedy Secondary School. Some plantings are also strategically located to protect water from urban run-off.

Monarch festival organizer Tere Mann said, "Our community impact on pollinators has increased immensely. We see more native plantings, more awareness of the impact of herbicides and insecticides on pollinators. We now see more clearly how we are dependent on pollinators for our food and our very existence. We are becoming conscious how the monarchs and all of nature are impacted by a variety of our actions and that we can change our impact. Monarchs are just part of this learning but because of their beauty and iconic existence, they have opened up this responsiveness."

Fergus Falls continues to engage in a growing North American species as well as climate change. network of cities working to create

green roofs, backyard gardens and open spaces throughout entire communities.

"Cities, towns and counties play a pivotal role in advancing monarch butterfly conservation," said Patrick Fitzgerald, senior director of community wildlife at the National Wildlife Federation. "By working together, we can ensure that every American child has a chance to experience majestic monarchs in their communities.'

Found across much of the United States, monarch butterflies numbered around 1 billion in 1996. Today, their numbers have declined significantly with recent news stories reporting a 26% decrease in the overwintering population's space in Mexico this winter. Threats to their survival include loss of habitat due to cropland conversion, urban development, and agricultural practices. Degradation of wintering habitat in Mexico and California has also had a negative impact on the

Through the National Wildlife habitat in public parks, public Federation's Mayors Monarch landscaping, roadsides, medians, Pledge, cities and municipalities commit each year to create habitat and educate residents on how to make a difference at home or in their community. Mayors who take the pledge commit to at least three of 30 action items to help save the monarch butterfly. These actions include creating a monarch-friendly garden at city hall, converting abandoned lots to monarch habitat, changing mowing schedules to allow milkweed to grow unimpeded,





SATURDAY, JUNE 12

FRIDAY, JUNE 11



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