

The Press-Dispatch

NOVEMBER 2011

Labor Day Celebration returns to Pike County

By Mike Johansen

Mark your calendar for Labor Day Weekend 2012 as the 126th annual Labor Day Celebration returns to Pike County Fairgrounds at Hornady Park in Petersburg.

The event will begin Friday and conclude on Monday of Labor Day Weekend.

It is the second time in the past five years that Petersburg and Pike County have been selected to host the event.

The celebration will begin Friday and Monday morning will be the annual parade, probably one of the longest parades on Labor Day in Indiana. The fair includes queen pageants for all ages, a baby contest, the official Indiana State Picking & Fiddling Championships; swap meet, bike show, all types of games for kids and adults, motocross races, demolition derby, band concerts and performances, talent contest, speakers, gospel music and, of course, carnival rides and more.

Mayor Jon Craig said there was a good group of Pike County people who put this proposal together and who participated in getting the Labor Day Celebration back to Pike County. They include (but are not limited to) Alycia Church and the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, Pike County 4-H Council, Dusty O'Brien and IBEW Local #1395, IPL, Pastor Paul Newton, Scott Kirby, Rich Coan, Maria Restrepo, the Petersburg Park Board and others associated with each group.

"We want to thank to Charlie Wyatt and the entire Labor Day Association Board of Directors for putting your trust in us and investing in our community. There were many area people who helped get this proposal together and bring back the celebration to Pike County and Petersburg," said Petersburg Mayor Jon Craig.

"We are glad it will be back next September. This celebration will probably bring 15,000 people to Petersburg and Pike County that weekend," said Craig. "We learned a lot of things from hosting the event in 2008. It was a big success, but we will also improve what we do and getting things ready for this big weekend. We will move the parade judging stand from the park to downtown Petersburg and make some other changes that will help this be better than ever. This will have a big impact on our area and we hope to make the 2012 celebration bigger and better than it was when it was here in 2008. We have made some changes at Hornady Park and the Fairgrounds that will help."