

Fall Fest celebrates with toons, tunes and balloons

*Event theme reflects the unique
and different people that make
up the culture of Mt. Vernon*

BY EMILY ROTH
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

The third annual Mt. Vernon Fall Fest lasts throughout this coming weekend, giving area residents and visitors alike the chance to celebrate autumn under the theme, "Toones, Tunes and Balloons."

"We got to brainstorming and we came up with 'Toons, Tunes and Balloons,'" stated Rachel Hunsell, Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau marketing executive. "It sounds so wacky and that's why we chose it. Our community is quirky in itself and it's so great to see different kinds of people come together in this festival. ... Every generation — the entire family can kind of latch on to the toons theme. There's nothing that's going to hold you back with a cartoon. It's that iconic feeling, everybody has a cartoon they grew up watching or their kids watch."

As far as tunes, Hunsell indicated that music is now an integral part of Fall Fest,

whether it's through marching bands or musical acts on the Main Stage.

"Fall Fest year after year continues to provide different styles of music," she said. "Until this year we've done completely free music for the community. So that's a huge part of what we do at Fall Fest, there's music going on almost the entire time all weekend long. And almost all of it is free except for that minimal fee for Little Texas. As far as the parade goes for tunes, we have a marching band expo that regional schools participate in to win cash prizes for their marching band at their school where they can purchase new instruments or new uniforms. Music is a huge part of the festival. It's not a parade until you have marching bands."

Rounding out the theme is balloons, alluding to Balloons Over Mt. Vernon. According to Hunsell, Balloons Over Mt. Vernon and other events are where festival goers can find something that appeals to their tastes.

"And then the balloons of course, they run in conjunction with the Fall Fest and they've become a big part of the weekend," said Hunsell. "And they've added more balloons this year. We wanted to bring everything full circle in the community. It's a quirky and fun theme and anybody can find a niche within that theme to dress up and get involved."

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY

- 4 p.m.-7 p.m. — Balloon Glow at Mt. Vernon Airport
- 7 p.m.-9 p.m. — Live Entertainment on Main Stage featuring the SouthBound Band
- 5 p.m.-9 p.m. — Refreshment Tent
- 5 p.m.-8 p.m. — Artisans In Action sponsored by Crossroads Community Hospital
- ALL DAY — Carnival
- 5 p.m.-Dark — Free Kids Zone
- 5 p.m. — Tri-State Treasure Hunt

SATURDAY

- 7 a.m. — Wheels for Wellness Bicycle Event hosted by St. Mary's Good Samaritan Regional Health Center Foundation
- 7 a.m.-9 a.m. — Pancake Breakfast and Tethered Balloon Rides at Mt. Vernon Airport
- 9 a.m.-10 p.m. — Vendors Marketplace
- 9 a.m.-8 p.m. — Artisans In Action sponsored by Crossroads Community Hospital
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — Great Pumpkin Contest sponsored by Mt. Vernon Business Women's Club
- 11 a.m.-Dark — Free Kids Zone
- Noon-10 p.m. — Refreshment Tent
- Noon — Chili Cook-Off
- Noon-3 p.m. — Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation Cruise-In Calling All Rides
- 1 p.m.-10 p.m. — Live Entertainment on Main Stage featuring American Lion, Cache River Band and Little Texas
- 3 p.m. — Parade - Toons, Tunes & Balloons
- ALL DAY — Carnival
- 4 p.m.-9 p.m. — Tethered Balloon Rides at MVTTHS Football Field
- 5 p.m. — Balloons Over Mt. Vernon

SUNDAY

- 11 a.m.-5 p.m. — Vendors Marketplace
- 11 a.m.-6 p.m. — Artisans In Action sponsored by Crossroads Community Hospital
- ALL DAY — Carnival