



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED ATTRACTION

The Marion County Fair

Plans for the 2016 Marion County Fair, July 30 – August 6, has been in the works since the last day of the 2015 Fair. If you're a Fair "regular," you may already know on which night of Fair week your favorite events occur:

- The Fair Parade, Car & Motorcycle Shows, Queen Contests and Tate Shade Bull Bash on the opening Saturday (July 30)
- Church Night on Sunday (July 31)
- Little Mr. & Miss on Monday (August 1)
- Baby Contest & the Old Tractor Pull on Tuesday (August 2)
- Four Wheelers on Wednesday (August 3)
- Motorcross on Thursday (August 4)
- Demo Derby on Friday (August 5)
- Truck & Tractor Pull and the Amateur Talent Contest on the final Saturday (August 6).

But how much do you know about the history of the Marion County Fair? Here are some fun facts!

The first Marion County Fair was held October 20-22, 1853 in the western part of Palmyra on grounds not fenced, but with a ring enclosed by a stretched rope. Prizes were offered for some livestock, for farm implements manufactured in Marion County, and for items like "the best one acre of corn." It was held every year until 1862 with the fairgrounds changed to east of town. After the execution

of the ten Confederate soldiers on the grounds, it was again changed to a location north of town, resuming in 1880. Between 1914-1918 and 1942-45 the event was interrupted by war. From 1937 – 1977, the fair/festival was held in downtown Palmyra. Since 1978 the action takes place at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Flower City Park.

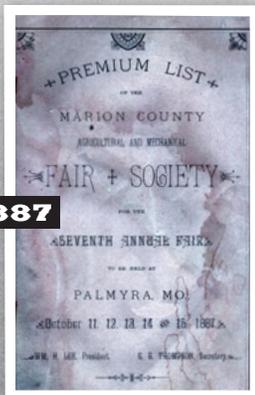


Travis Haerr is showing his steer at the 2014 Marion County Fair.



Did you know that marksmen vied in trap shoots and a member of Palmyra's 1885 state championship team, John Lemmons, was barred from matches for a time so that other contestants might have a chance to win? Barnstorming pilots offered airplane rides for \$5 in the early 1900's. In the 1920's, a horse show was one of the fair highlights drawing horse enthusiasts from as far away as Lincoln, Illinois.

In the early '40s, Chamber member, Marita Meyer (Reiff) placed first in the best decorated doll buggy contest. From 1945 – 1968, the Marion County Schools Consolidated held Rural School Day at the Fair. The Marion County Junior Fair, or show as it was called on its inception in 1947, was traditionally held in conjunction with the Palmyra Fall Festival.



1887

1973

The Marion County Fair Continued

Best decorated tricycle, pet contests and a "tacky parade," with attire from diapers to draperies, were popular in the 1950's. Best clown costume and historical character were among the competitions open to children into the 70's. Food and handiwork premium competition was varied and included categories like blackberry jelly, pickled beets, burnt sugar cake, most elaborate antique hat, and tea aprons. From the late '50's and into the 70's, Bob Johnson's Old Fiddler's Contest was a major competitive event.

Even in the '60's and 70's the Talent Show was held on the last Saturday evening of the Festival; at the time, Lovegreen's Motor Company was the sole sponsor. And what would the 1960's have been without a Junior Twist contest for participants age 13 and up? The first Fall Festival art show, displayed in the Cloverleaf Saddle Club meeting house, was held in 1975.

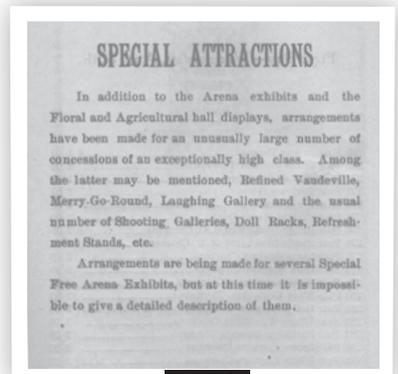
The Palmyra Fall Festival and the Marion County Junior Fair, simply called the Marion County Fair today, is known for livestock shows culminating in the annual auctions where animals are sold to the highest bidders. In 1963 the Grand Champion steer brought 70 cents a pound; the champion barrow, 90 cents, and the champion wether, 50 cents, well-above the prevailing market prices. Though Grand Champions no longer sell by the pound, 2015's Grand Champion steer sold for \$1000, swine for \$500, and lamb for \$550. New this year will be the

Pee Wee Calf Show. Young exhibitors, ages 3-8, will have the opportunity to exhibit cattle, learn showmanship, and promote the beef industry. The show is open to exhibitors not yet eligible to show in the 4-H/FFA Junior Cattle Show.

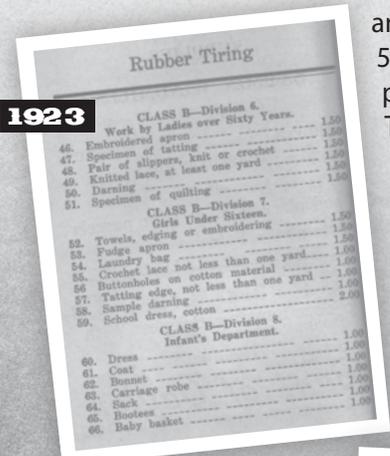
In 1978 the festival was moved from Main Street to Flower City Park, the site of the new Marion County Fairgrounds. Everette Stevens, who managed the festival for several years, shared his experience with the fairgrounds park committee and the Marion County Junior Fair Committee, to help continue the event's success. The Kiwanis stand, now a Fair "fixture," opened in 1978 with celebrity waiters decked out in tuxedos to serve hamburgers at the stand. This was also the year for the first Demolition Derby.

Ground was broken for the Sesquicentennial Building in the Spring of 1979, but a violent storm leveled it before completion. With the help of many, construction began again, and work was completed that year. Merchant display booths and 4-H exhibits were housed in the building the very next year.

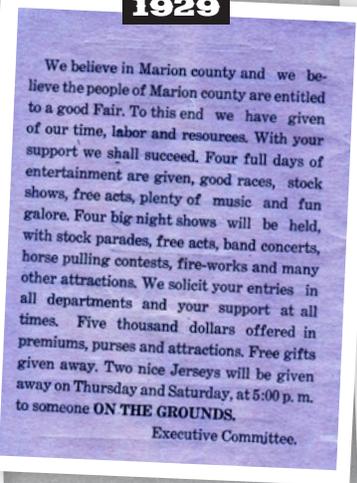
Yes, we now have the Tate Shade Bull Bash, but Palmyra's first rodeo was held in 1981. That was also the year for the first Pedal Power tractor event.



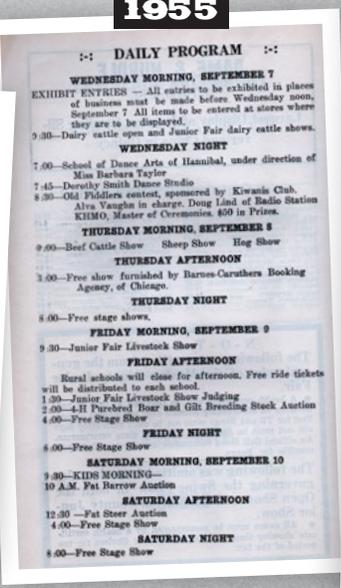
1911



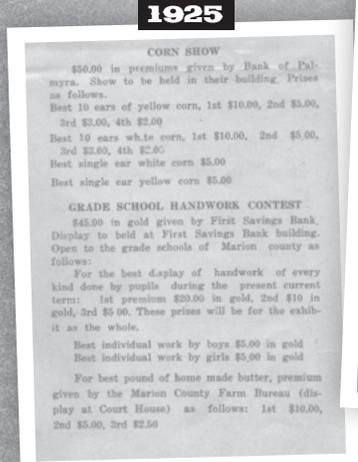
1923



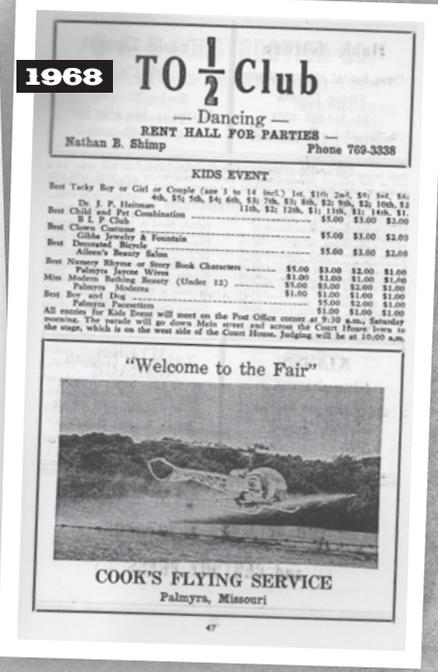
1929



1955



1925



1968

The Marion County Fair Continued

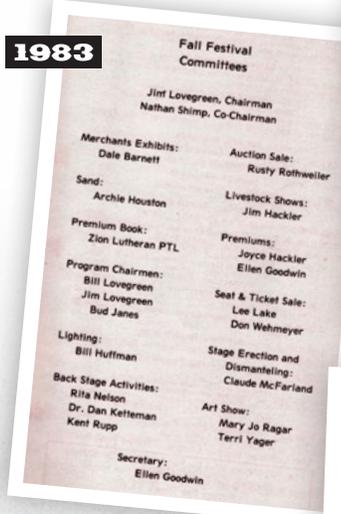
In 1988, Citizens for Community Awareness began its effort to move Floral Hall from the old fairgrounds site to its present location. The octagonal building, currently over 125 years old, was donated to the city with the stipulation that it would be moved and restored. It was dismantled and stored prior to its move and today houses the Art Show held in conjunction with the annual festival. The late 1980's was also when the Fair Parade was introduced.

From 1999 - 2003 the Marion County Fall Festival and the Junior Fair were not held at the same time. The impasse over dates involved scheduling conflicts for both groups, but the re-aligning of the two has been a plus for our community.

"It takes a LOT of volunteers to make the Fair what it is," said Michele Hopson, co-chair of the event with her husband, Randy, since 2012 and herself a Fair volunteer. "For every organization, food vendor and event, there are volunteers. Without these generous donations of time on behalf of our community, we wouldn't have the success that we have year after year." Proceeds from the Marion County Fair benefit local organizations through donations; fund community events like the Flag Day Parade, Howdy Neighbor Day, Taste of Palmyra, and Christmas in Palmyra, and go toward a student scholarship.

If you can add any fun Fair facts and/or photos, please share them with us! The Chamber office is located in the Gardner House at 417 S. Main; email: palmyrachamber@gmail.com, phone: 573-769-0777.

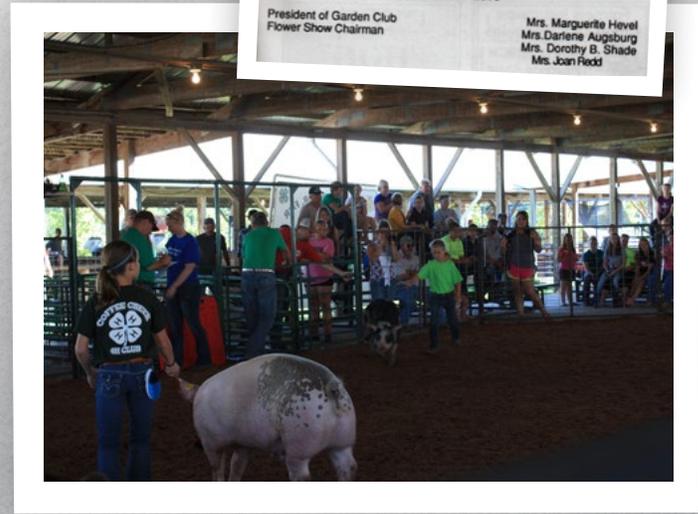
1983



1991



1992



Everything you wanted to know about the 2016 Marion County Fair can be found online at

www.showmepalmyra.com



Simply click on the postcard at the top of the page and find the event you're interested in.

You'll also find a schedule, including entry fees, and a list of all Fair Chairpersons.

KUDOS! HOWDY NEIGHBOR & FLAG DAY

This year's Flag Day parade was full of great entries, and the Palmyra Chamber would like to thank all participants and parade organizers Nancy Goellner, David Hastings and Karen Minch. We appreciate the Boots-Dickson American Legion Post #174, the Norfolk Smith VFW Post and the local Boy Scouts for the patriotic flag raising and folding ceremonies.



Howdy Neighbor Day vendors were happy to see the large number of people who stopped on the Courthouse lawn to eat and browse. Thanks to Jesse Knowles, Jerri Johnston and Susan Berti for their work on this event. For more photos visit Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.



KUDOS! BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Raj Kshirsagar hosted Business After Hours at the new addition to the Budget Inn from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 23. Attendance was exceptional, and we thank Raj for treating us all to an evening to visit with fellow Chamber members.



KUDOS! CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Hannah Lochman, the recipient of this year's \$500 Chamber Scholarship. Hannah will be attending the University of Central Missouri pursuing a degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

Presenting the scholarship are President Brian Caldwell and Vice-President Charlene Liendo-Jones with Chamber Scholarship recipient, Hannah Lochman.



Chamber Briefs...

CHAMBER UPDATED ON OVERTIME FOR WHITE COLLAR WORKERS

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting Tuesday, June 14, at HATS. President Brian Caldwell welcomed all including Palmyra Chamber scholarship recipient Hannah Lochman and guest speaker, Charles Holland, Business Development Specialist with University of Missouri Extension. Lochman thanked the Chamber members for the money toward her college education.

Holland began his presentation by reminding Chamber members that the final rule on overtime pay for white collar works, which goes into effect December 1, 2016, is actually an update to the Fair Labor Standards Act created by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938. The change will affect 4.2 million workers currently ineligible for overtime. The Department of Labor estimates that most of them (4.1 million) will become eligible for overtime when they work more than 40 hours (i.e., they will be converted to overtime-eligible status), while others (100,000) will receive a raise so that their salary is above the new threshold. This means more money for middle class workers or more free time.

The current salary threshold for overtime pay (\$23,660/yr; \$455/wk) is less than the poverty level for a family of four and just 1.6 times the federal minimum wage. The new rule will entitle most salaried white collar workers earning less than \$47,476 a year (\$913 a week) to overtime pay. The rule will automatically update the salary threshold every three years based on wage growth over time.

For a comprehensive overview and summary of the final rule on overtime pay for white collar workers [click here](#).

Taste of Palmyra (October)

Event chair Michelle Merkel will be hosting the first organizational meeting for Taste of Palmyra this month, and she wants to include you! Taste of Palmyra celebrates its tenth anniversary October 17, and your ideas on how to commemorate this milestone can help make the event even more successful.

Michelle can be reached at HOMEBANK, 573-769-2001 or email [Click here](#)



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

*Working Together for a
Stronger Future for the Palmyra Area*

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP:

You too can be a member of the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce. Businesses with only 1-3 employees can join for only \$75. Not-For-Profit and Non-Business Individual Membership is also \$75, while Retired Individuals may join for \$25. Membership runs January – December. An application and more information are available [HERE](#).

Visit

www.showmepalmyra.com
for everything Palmyra!

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Tues. July 12, 2016

Old Stone House Inn. Ruthie Carpenter, Miss Marion County Fair Queen, will recount her experiences during the past year.

Tues. August 9, 2016

Sesqui Building. Dee Rose with the Missouri Department of Labor has information about the Missouri Shared Work Program, an employee retention program to help employers and employees make it through a tough time that would have otherwise included a layoff.

upcoming events CALENDAR

July 3

Fireworks!!! ~ Dusk, Palmyra Flower City Park Memorial Loop, Sponsored by Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

July 4

Happy Independence Day!

July 5 – August 16

Summer Lunch Program~11 am-12:30 pm, Palmyra United Methodist Church

July 30 – August 1

Marion County Fair

July 30

*10 am: Marion County Fair Parade, Main Street
11:00 am: KC's BBQ, Courthouse Lawn
12:00 pm: Car Show & Motorcycle Show, Midway
4:00 pm: Junior Miss Pageants, Talent Stage
7:00 pm: Marion Co. Queen Pageant, Talent Stage
7:00 p.m.: Tate Shade Memorial Bull Bash - Arena*

July 31

7 pm: Church Night at the Fair, Talent Stage

August 1

6 pm: Little Mr. & Miss, Talent Stage

August 2

*6 – 10 pm: Carnival Rides, Midway
6:15 pm: Baby Contest, Talent Stage
6:30 pm: Tractor Pull, Arena*

August 3

*6 – 10 pm: Carnival Rides, Midway
8 pm: 4-Wheeler Races, Arena*

August 4

*6 – 10 pm: Carnival Rides, Midway
7 pm: Pedal Power Tractor Pull, Show Barns
8 pm: Super Cross Races, Arena*

August 5

*6 – 10 pm: Carnival Rides, Midway
7:30 pm: Demolition Derby, Arena*

August 6

*6 – 10 pm: Carnival Rides, Midway
7 pm: Truck & Tractor Pull, Arena
7 pm: Amateur Talent Contest, Talent Stage*

August 17

First Day of School - Palmyra R-1

September 16

Homecoming - Palmyra R-1

Chamber Email Address:
palmyrachamber@gmail.com



Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce

Full Event
Details
Click Here!