

51ST ANNUAL WARRENS CRANBERRY FESTIVAL

September 27-29, 2024



Special Section for the Monroe County Herald · Monday, September 23, 2024 · 12 pages

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2024 Button Design Contest Winners



First Place Adult Entry by
Debra DeStarkey



First Place Youth Entry by
Bruce Riggs

The designer of the 51st Annual, 2024 Warrens Cranberry Festival Button is Debra DeStarkey. Debra resides in Hobart, Wisconsin, and received a \$100 cash prize, compliments of the Warrens Cranberry Festival.

Renee Christense, of Chicago Illinois, was the 2nd place winner, and received a \$75 cash prize.

The designer of the 2024 Youth Button Design Contest was Bruce Riggs. Bruce resides in Warrens, Wisconsin, and is a student at Warrens Grade School. Bruce received a \$50 cash prize.

The 2nd place winner was Emerson Rauvola, also from Warrens. She received a \$25 cash prize.

The 2024 buttons are for sale, for \$1 each, and can be purchased at the Warrens Cranberry Festival Souvenir Booth during the Festival. The buttons can also be purchased at the Warrens Mall, and Discover Cranberries - museum, gift shop and cafe.

Each year, Warrens Cranberry Festival holds a button design contest to select the button for the following year. The winning design for the 2025 Festival Button & Youth Button will be unveiled at this year's Festival, before the parade.

CranFest's "Be Our Guest" Contest

Do you have your costume ready for the 2024 festival? Last year's winners were Stephanie Weix, Branda Weix, Linda Jaenke, Peg Catura, Holly Jacobson and Cathy Coppersmith. The winners get to ride in the parade, as well as get some special gifts and some tasty treats.

Here are some stories from the ladies about their years at the festival. I love to hear that we bring fun to those that come.

Stephanie Weix (AKA StephFester)

I missed out on the formative years of our CranFest clan while living out of state but have been a regular Fester since moving back in 2004. Our group of grade school, high school, college, and little sister besties make a weekend of it every year.

One of my favorite memories is all the laughter, trying to cram the world's largest rooster yard art into a tiny Prius for the ride home. My favorite food - like practically everyone's - is the cranberry jubilee. And my favorite thing to do is our post-fest "show and tell" of all our loot, complete with the unveiling of surreptitious purchases and vying for awards, like best in show and best staging.

Branda Weix (AKA Mule)

I am lucky to be the permanent little sister tag-along at Cranberry Festival, as I attend with my sister and her friends, some of them friends since grade school. I've been pestering some of these ladies for 50 years! As payback, and because I get re-classified as a "new" Cranfester whenever I miss, I am the "Mule" of the group.

The newest member has to carry every large, awkward item, and there are many! The newest member also has to make regular trips to drop off delicate items at the cars — again, many! My favorite food is, of course, the cranberry jubilee! Favorite thing to do: buy yard art! Favorite memory: the year I parked on the opposite side of Warrens from everyone else and spent a loooooong time trying to find them without cell service!

Linda Jaenke (AKA RauFester)

I've been going to CranFest with at least some of this group of friends for more than 30 years! I remember carrying furniture, 50 pounds of onions, a huge chicken, big goat and a wide array of other things. I also remember a year so cold we had to huddle by the pellet stove for warmth. I love seeing what's new every year and finding things my mom and kids would like. My favorite food is cranberry jubilee and all the samples of everything. This group always ends the



fest with our famous show and tell at the end of the last day, back at the cabin. So fun!

Peg Catura (AKA PegFester)

I am so excited that my friends and I have been selected to celebrate The Cranberry Festival 2024! I have been coming to the CranFest for at least 22+ years, but I am not sure exactly. My favorite thing to do is simply walk around with my Fest Group and take in the sights and sounds of the Fest. I enjoy buying crafts for my home and I always buy a lot of fancy soap to pamper myself. The food at the Fest is always great, but I don't have a food that I must have every year. I look forward to CranFest every year - lots of laughs and fun!

Holly Jacobson (AKA HolFester)

I have been coming to Warrens Cranberry Festival since approximately 1995. My friends, Cathy and Linda, had been to the festival and shared how much fun it was. They invited me along and little did I know that it would turn into almost 30 years of fun and festing with my friends. We come from different directions, but all meet up for a weekend of friendship and fun. This is one item I ensure is on my calendar, so I don't miss a year.

It is hard to choose just one favorite memory, but I know we have been to the fest wearing shorts while sweating in the heat, as well as wearing winter coats, hats and gloves when it was cold. But no matter the weather, we had a great time every year. I can look around my home and see items I have purchased that bring back memories of fun shopping at Warrens Cranberry Festival.

I remember many years when one of us would purchase a large item and we would

all pitch in and carry it to our vehicle. We always take an SUV because you never know what you might find to purchase! We also make sure to walk up and down each aisle and hit every area because you might just find the perfect buy around the next corner. While I enjoy all of the flea market and antique items as well as the food, my favorite is finding just the right piece to decorate my home, whether it be for fall, the holidays, or every day. I do enjoy the food offerings as well, with the Walking Taco being my favorite, closely followed by the Cheesecake on a stick.

Cathy Coppersmith (AKA FloFester)

Cranfest is the annual highlight of each fall for me, and I have been attending for more than 30 years. I love getting together with this group of friends to look, laugh, eat, and lug treasures. Each year we all reiterate how we don't need anything, but we always find something we didn't know we needed, like heavy metal fencing, huge yard art, and 50 pounds of onions. Friday is always a great fest day because of the cranberry jubilee. We also do competitive festing and I always try to win the first purchase prize. We usually manage to get in a couple of traditional Wisconsin Old Fashions after the fest too.

How to Enter for "Be Our Guest"

You can fill out the form on the website and include a picture from this year's festival or go to the main information booth on Main Street and fill out the form and the girls will take a photo. The website address is <https://www.cranfest.com>

Use this QR Code
for More info



2024 Parade Marshals for 51st Cran Fest Parade announced

The 51st Cran Fest Parade Marshals for the 2024 parade, being held on Sunday, September 29th, are Curt and Vicki Meyer, and Cody Cooper. The parade starts at 1 p.m. and will include Cran Fest Royalty, marching bands, visiting royalty, classic automobiles and many clubs and organizations that will be represented through various floats and unique means.

Curt and Vicki Myer

Curt and Vicki Myer, along with their children, Theresa Trindal and Josh Myer, have been involved with the Cranberry Festival since the late 1990's. They started by helping the Grace Bible Church, formerly known as the Warrens Baptist Church, with their outdoor booth selling pies, cookies, and beverages. They also helped pick up garbage throughout the day and into the late evenings, along with cleaning up the week following the festival.

Curt and Vicki started volunteering at the festival office in the early 2010's. They helped with information mailings, packaging candy, vendor packets, and sales booth merchandise.

Curt helps with the golf cart committee, getting them ready to go. He also helps with courtesy, hauling visitors and their purchases. He also does a lot of heavy lifting in the office, as needed.



This year's 51st Cran Fest Parade Marshals, from the left, Cody Copper, Vicki Myer and Curt Myer. The parade kicks off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 29th. Contributed photo.

Vicki is on the Board of Directors. She is in the office the week of the festival, answering the phone, questions, and showing people where they're trying to go. She does a lot of behind-the-scenes work for several committees. She is also involved with the Crantastic Singers, operating their sound system.

Cody Copper

Cody Copper moved to Warren's in 1986. She worked at the Ocean Spray Receiving

Station during harvest season. It was in the late 90's when she began volunteering for the festival. Back then it was a lot of collating, stapling, folding, and stamping. Now the Xerox machine does almost all of that. So, now she mostly makes up vendor packets, folds and prices merchandise and other odd jobs. She likes being a helpful member of the community and enjoys volunteering for the Cranberry Festival.

List of Events for the Weekend

- **Free Admission**
- **Tour Buses Welcome**
- **Parking Lot Shuttles**
- **Strolling Entertainment**

Booths open at 7 a.m. all 3 days

ALL THREE DAYS

- 800 Arts & Crafts Vendors
- 300 Flea Market Booths
- Over 100 Food Booths
- 100 Farm Market Booths
- Warrens Cranberry Festival Souvenir Sales Booth on Pine Street
- Pancake Breakfast with Cranberry Syrup 6 a.m.-11 a.m. Queen of Apostles Parish (corner of Pine & May St.)

Friday, Sept. 27, 2024

- Marsh Walking Tours- 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Take the walking bridge on Railroad Street.
- Cranberry Jubilee- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Pine Street
- Warrens Fire Dept. Fish Fry- 2 – 8 p.m. (or until gone)
- Fire Station with Beer & Cranberry Wine
- Livingstones Fellowship Church Service- 7 p.m. Main St.
- Lions Club Porkchop Sandwich – serving until 6 p.m.
- Ballpark Log Building

'EVENTS' cont. on page ??



Push-Pin World Map at CranFest again



Last year, for the 2023 CranFest, we again set up a world map with push pins by our fest office door area. Foreign visitors marked 52 countries that they had traveled from! In 2024 we look forward to inviting guests to stop by the grey tin shed, off Main Street. It is located across from the BP gas station & behind the Cranberry Cafe & Museum.

In the tin shed there will be a quilt display; biggest cranberry contest; cranberry fest button entries; photo op; marsh display; and more. There will also be a baby changing station available here. A smaller pin map will be there to pin countries represented. Foreign guests can post a selfie to the CranFest photo site!

Friday, September 27th and Saturday, September 28th, our PA at the information booth across from Post Office will announce timing for the shed to be open. Volunteer greeters will welcome guests. Fest maps, flyers, and Monroe County Herald newspaper inserts will be available. Each guest will receive light weight gifts in a package. Photos will be taken and questions answered.

World map and national map will indicate attendee origins

St. Andrew's Cranfest Pancake Breakfast marking 50th Anniversary

St. Andrew's Catholic Church will hold its 50th Anniversary Cranfest Pancake Breakfast during this year's Warrens Cranberry Festival. The all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast – featuring the church ladies' highly guarded cranberry syrup recipe – is served all three days of the festival.

In late August, four members of Queen of the Apostles Parish – Linda Lambert, Sue Weiner, Heidi Ueek and Loraine Schaller – spent a Saturday morning in the church kitchen making 35 quarts of cranberry syrup for this year's pancake breakfast.

For several years, Loraine Schaller oversaw cooking the cranberry syrup, with help from other church women. But Schaller announced she was stepping back and turned that task over to fellow parishioner, Linda Lambert, this year.

Schaller and her husband, Jerry, have the distinction of having helped with every church pancake breakfast held since the first one, in 1974. "I can't think of anyone else who is still left who has worked at all 50 of them," Schaller said.

Lambert was recruited for her note-taking skills, to record all the steps involved in making the secret syrup recipe. "I'm trying to make sure I'm writing down what we're doing, but it keeps changing," she said while laughing.

The current cranberry syrup recipe was developed by Sue Weiner, in 2007. The original recipe served at the breakfast was made with cranberry cocktail juice, but now the church women are using cranberries donated by parishioners, Jim and Nodji Van Wychen, owners of Wetherby Cranberry Company.

The first Warrens Cranberry Festival was held in 1973. After the inaugural event, festival organizers asked St. Andrew's

Church members if they would offer breakfast the following year, for vendors and others, kickstarting the 50-year tradition.

"And now we have the second and third generation of vendors coming to the breakfast, like their parents and grandparents used to do," said Weiner.

The record number of people served at the church's pancake breakfast stands at 1,260. Typically, about 1,000 festgoers enjoy breakfast served in the church hall, although the number since COVID has been around 700 people. Over the past few years attendance has started climbing again, with the addition of outdoor seating in a tent, on the church lawn.

"When the breakfast was started, there weren't many options for people to eat while they were at Cranfest. But now there are 100 food vendors on the grounds," said Heidi Ueek.

Ueek started helping at the pancake breakfast when she was 19. Now 44, Ueek said she has only missed helping four times in the past 25 years, due to college or work responsibilities.

An Army of Volunteers

It takes a small army of volunteers to get ready for the annual pancake breakfast. There is a 10-member committee who oversees the planning, while other parishioners help by cleaning the church before and after the event, picking up supplies, and other tasks. A crew of a dozen or so work on each shift during the breakfast to cook the pancakes and sausages, serve food, clear tables and sell tickets.

"It has really helped since St. Andrew's and St. Mary's Church in Tomah merged (in 2015) to form Queen of the Apostles Parish," Weiner remarked. "The people in Warrens are stretched so thin with other



Sue Weiner, left, pours homemade cranberry syrup into a quart jar, while Linda Lambert moves a funnel between jars. Along with Loraine Schaller and Heidi Ueek, the four women made 35 quarts of cranberry syrup for this year's 50th Anniversary St. Andrew's Cranfest Pancake Breakfast. Contributed photo.

responsibilities during Cranfest that it really helps that members from Tomah are helping with the breakfast."

The Power of Proceeds

Proceeds from the pancake breakfast have been used to remodel the church kitchen, install new carpeting in the dining room, purchase altar linens and server alms, and other needed items for the church. Funds are also used to support the parish's various mission projects, including donations to Project Milk, a Diocese of La Crosse initiative that supplies powdered milk to thousands of undernourished children in Peru.

Parish members will be serving the pancake-and-sausage breakfast with choice of cranberry or organic maple syrup from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. all three days of the festival. The menu also includes cranberry sauce, coffee, milk, and of course, cranberry juice. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 6 to 12.

Along with inviting festgoers to come to the pancake breakfast, parishioners also welcome visitors to attend Mass at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 28th. St. Andrew's Church is located at the corner of Pine and May Streets.



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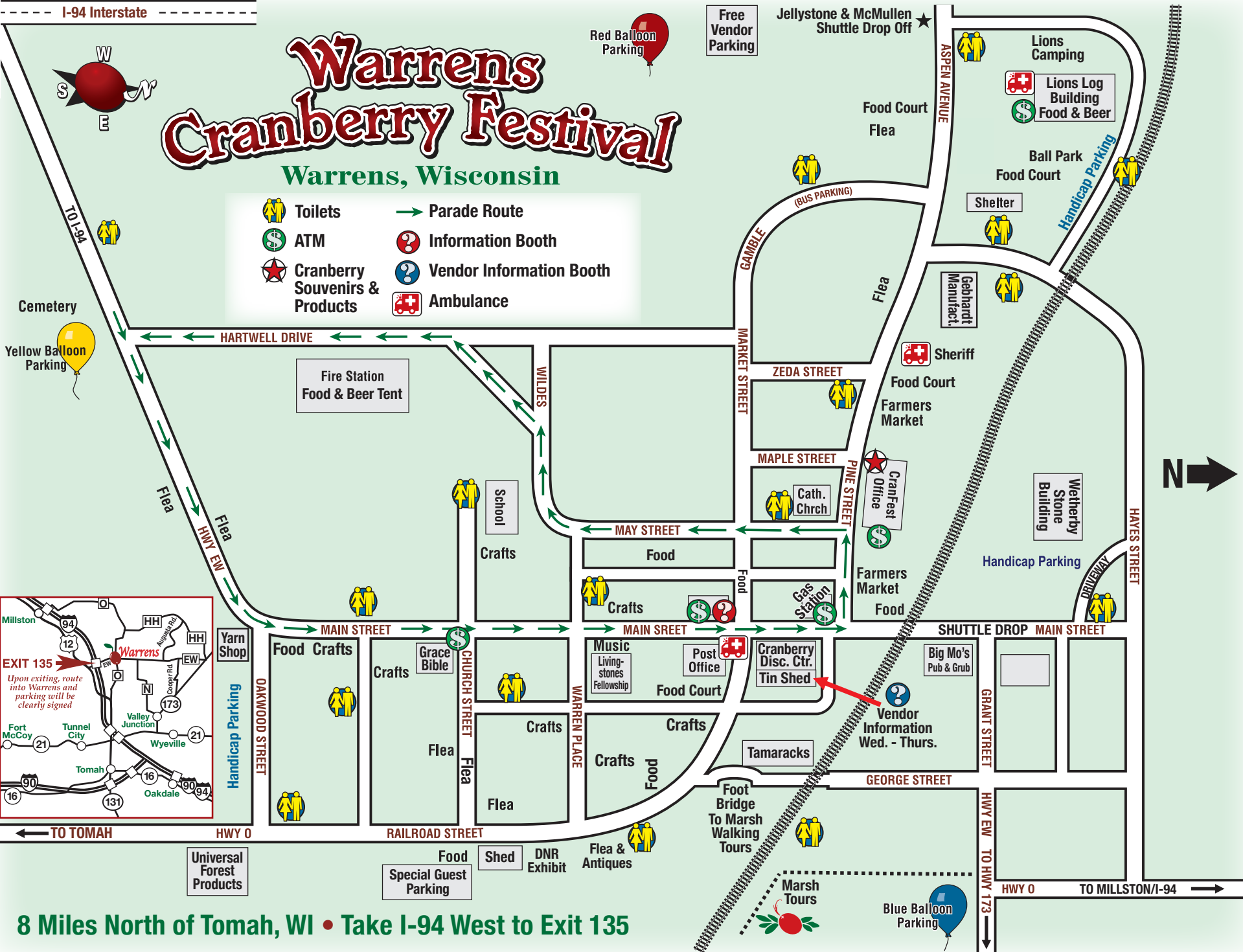
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FESTIVAL MAP & PARADE ROUTE

Warrens Cranberry Festival Warrens, Wisconsin

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- ATM
- Cranberry Souvenirs & Products
- Parade Route
- Information Booth
- Vendor Information Booth
- Ambulance



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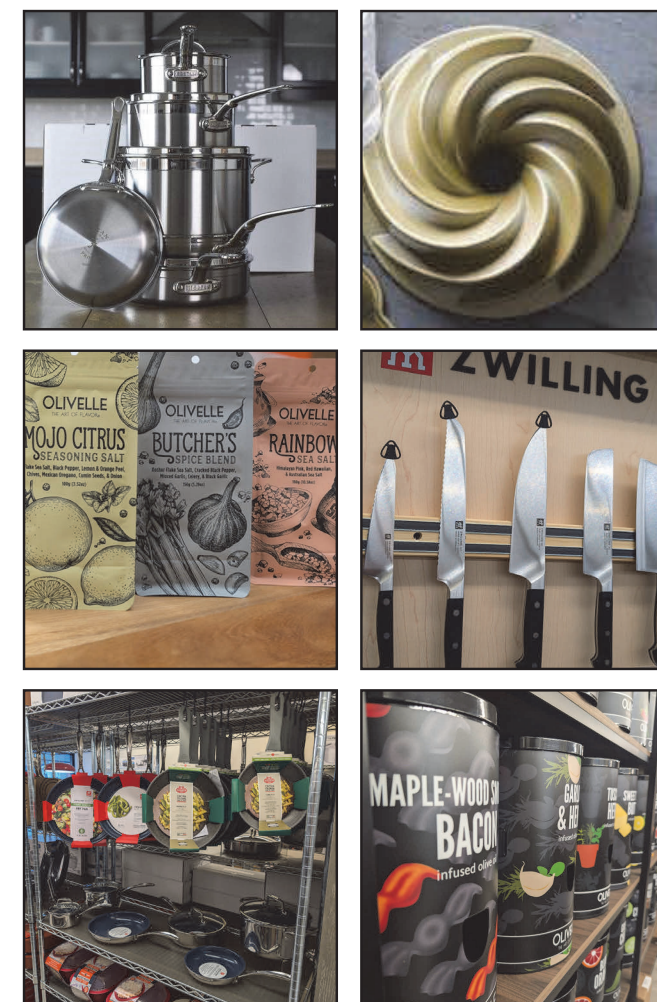
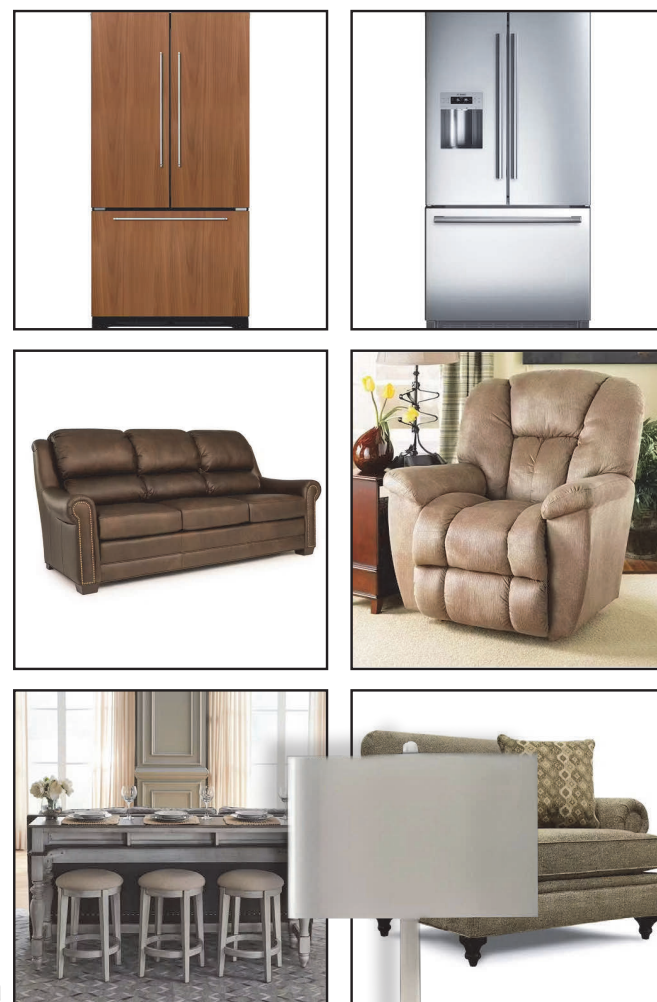
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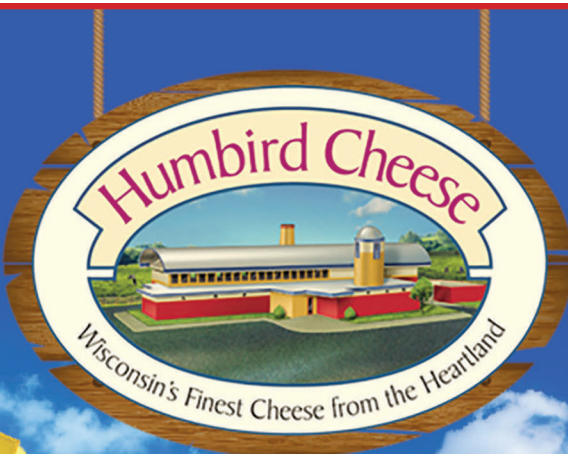
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Searching for the largest assortment of Warrens Cranberry Festival clothing and gifts conveniently located under one tent? You can head over to the official Warrens Cranberry Festival Souvenir Sales Booth, located on Pine Street.

If you're looking for official Warrens Cranberry Festival merchandise, this is the place to find it! All the items and gifts are original designs and cannot be purchased anywhere else. Stop by to find a few treasures and help support the festival that supports your community.



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Hillbilly Bob is a slice of Americana, with humor

Folks may rub their eyes in disbelief this weekend, at the Warrens Cranberry Festival when they first spot Hillbilly Bob “ca-chugging” along in his 1929 Model A Ford. “Old Ruthie,” as Bob affectionately calls his trusty four-door convertible, looks like she just came out of a time capsule, direct from the 1930’s “Grapes of Wrath” era.

Father Time has taken 95 years creating the rust-colored finish on Old Ruthie. Hillbilly Bob put just enough canvas patches on the convertible top to keep the rain out, but spared no expense on the seat covers, using genuine antique quilts and gunny sacks. The old Ford is loaded down with vintage camping gear, old tools, utensils, fishing equipment, household antiques and curios of all types.

Hillbilly Bob says Old Ruthie will have folks rolling in the streets with laughter

when she shows off all her tricks, sound effects, and her own special personality. Old Ruthie can even blow-up balloons, which Bob creates all sorts of hats and animals with.

Hillbilly Bob, whose real name is Bob Hill, comes from the hills of Northeastern Iowa, where he and his family have farmed for 171 years. Old Ruthie and Hillbilly Bob are in their 31st year of touring together, entertaining at fairs, festivals, and rodeos, from Florida to California and Texas to Canada.

While you’re at the Warrens Cranberry Festival, stop by, say hello and reminisce with Hillbilly Bob and Old Ruthie. You will see a sight you won’t soon forget.

Bob will be here all three days and in the parade on Sunday.



Warrens Cranberry Festival, Inc. 2024 Marsh Medallion Hunt

Quest at the Fest!



Cranberry Festival Medallion

Join us in the **12th Annual Marsh Medallion Hunt** during the **51st Warrens Cranberry Festival** September 27-29, 2024
Win a cash prize!!!

The Marsh Medallion will be hidden within the Warrens Cranberry Festival grounds and clues will be given starting on **Thursday, September 26, 2024.**

Check for clues on our website www.cranfest.com and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cranfest.

Two clues will be given each day, until the Medallion is found.

The person who finds the Marsh Medallion can receive his/her prize by bringing the medallion to the Warrens Cranberry Festival office at 402 Pine Street, in Warrens.

The medallion is a 2 3/4" diameter gold and red coin with a red ribbon, that reads *“If found please return to the Warrens Cranberry Festival office at 402 Pine St. to claim prize.”*

- The medallion is not hidden in a dangerous place! You will not need to climb trees, use a ladder, dig in the ground or in any way put yourself in danger to find it.
- The medallion might be hidden in the branches of a tree or other elevated location but no climbing is necessary to reach it.
- The medallion might be partially covered, but digging isn’t necessary.
- **Please be respectful of property** when searching for the medallion. The Festival reserves the right to stop the hunt at any time if public or private property is destroyed.
- If the medallion is not found by 5:00 p.m., on **Sunday, September 29, 2024**, the Festival has the right to terminate the hunt/contest.
- By entering this contest, the entrant grants permission for the Festival to use his/her name, voice, photograph and/or other likeness for advertising and/or publicity without compensation.
- Festival employees, members, board members and their immediate families are not eligible to participate or win.
- If you find the medallion, post a photo to our Facebook page ASAP so we can let our followers and other searchers know it has been found.

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List of Events for the Weekend

cont. from page 3

Saturday, Sept 28, 2024

Marsh Walking Tours- 8 a.m. –
3 p.m. – Take the walking
bridge on Railroad Street.
Cranberry Jubilee- 10 a.m. – until
gone – Pine Street
Crantastic Singers- 12:30 p.m. –
outside on corner of
Main & Pine Street; and 12:00
p.m. & 6 p.m. Livingstones
Fellowship Church, Main Street
Queen of Apostles Parish Catholic
Mass- 6 p.m. corner
of Pine & May Street
Lions Club Porkchop Sandwich –
serving until 6 p.m.
Ballpark Log Building

Sunday, Sept 29, 2024

Marsh Walking Tours- 10 a.m. –
12 p.m. – Take the walking
bridge on Railroad Street.
Parade- Starts at 1 p.m.
Grace Bible Church Service- 10
a.m. Main St.
*Contests held inside the tin
building behind the Discover
Cranberries & Café on Main
Street, unless noted elsewhere.

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Same Ole Human

Chris Kroeze will be playing at the Town of Lincoln Fire Department on Hartwell Street on Friday, September 27th from 8-11pm. Singer and Songwriter Chris Kroeze connects with both the hearts and minds of audiences across various generations through his genuine country soul and his unique and alluring vocal delivery as he performs more than 200 shows per year. Kroeze performs across the U.S. and internationally, including multiple tours overseas each year in support of our U.S. Armed Forces.

2024 Entertainment Lineup and happenings

We have plenty of entertainment this year, for the old and young at heart. Josh Peters will be performing all three days with his Dangerous Fun Show, as he walks around the festival on stilts. T.C. Hatter - the living statue, usually found near the Warrens BP gas station, will also be on hand, drawing stares from passersby who may be lulled into believing he is actually a statue, then startled when a quick movement is performed. Hillbilly Bob & Old Ruthie will be cruising the streets, and Casady's Critter's will be available, complete with the baby kangaroos. There will be minnow racing and the New Beginnings Ranch that offers camel rides, pony rides, and a petting zoo, on the corner of Gamble and Pine Street.

On Friday and Saturday, listen to DJ music, by David Lund and All Right Entertainment and take a load off your feet on the stage, located on Pine Street, in front of the cranberry-colored building, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bree Morgan will be playing Friday and Saturday morning. You can find her near the festival office on Pine Street.

Balloons By Kevin "The Midwest's Premier Balloon Artist" will be on the corner of Pine Street

and Main Street, on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and then on Sunday, by the Parade Reviewing Stand, near the school, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On the corner of Hayes and Pine Street, take a moment to take some photos with our big chair. You can also be royalty or on the school bus heading to Cranfest. You can also be in jail, arrested for having too much fun at CranFest. Don't leave without putting a pin on the large world map and let us know where you are joining us from.



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Cran Currant

Smooth with a Tart Finish

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Cranberry Tart, Cherry Sweet

Cran Rhuby

A Sweet Cranberry and Rhubarb Wine

Cran Razzy

Cranberry and Raspberry

Crangria

Chocolate Cranberry with a Kiss of Orange

Cran Rouge

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Local Vendors

Casey's Fine Spirits, Highway 21 BP, Highway 21 Shell, Molter's Fresh Market – **Tomah**

Warrens Mall, Berry Vine, Three Bears Lodge, Cranberry Cafe – **Warrens**

Amish Cheese House, Sparta Travel Center, Eddies Convenience Store – **Sparta**

St Joe Country Market – **La Crosse**

Festival – **Onalaska, Holmen, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Mauston**

Hansen's IGA – **Westby, Black River Falls, Sparta**

Woodmans – **Onalaska & Altoona**

J&S Liquor – **Mauston**

Millston Kwik Mart – **Millston**

Viking Liquor – **Reedsburg**

Lake Nokomis Cranberries – **Eagle River**

Meadowbrook Farms – **Exeland**

Stratford Family Food – **Stratford**

Pittsville Family Foods – **Pittsville**

Randy's Neighborhood Market – **Arcadia, Galesville, Whitehall**

Vern's Cheese – **Chilton**

The Landing – **Castle Rock**

