



# *Celebrating* **The 2021 AMBOY DEPOT DAYS August 26-29**

AMBOY



**A supplement to the Amboy News, the Ashton Gazette,  
the Mendota Reporter and the Rochelle News-Leader  
Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021**



# Welcome to the 2021 Amboy Depot Days



**Amboy Mayor  
John Schamberger**

It's that time of year again folks, welcome to the 38th Annual Depot Days! This year's festivities will surely entertain all ages. The weekend will kick off on Thursday night downtown at the main stage for the Miss Amboy Contest, be sure to stick around for family night at the carnival.

On Friday the community wide garage sales begin at 8 a.m. and the carnival will open at 6 p.m. The food stands will be open at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of choices. Saturday morning is off to an early start with the Sylvan Shuffle 5K Run/Walk. The Amboy Fire Department will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at the K.C. Beer Garden starting at 7 a.m.

The Lion's Club Parade theme this year is "30 Years of Car Show Fun" will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon followed by musical guest Whiskey Romance at 7 p.m. on the Main Stage.

As they say, "the best for last," Sunday we will be hosting one of the largest Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Shows in Northern Illinois! Have you got your 50/50 tickets yet? The last winner in 2019 received \$105,425!

On behalf of the City Council, I would like to thank all of our sponsors that make this weekend happen, without them it would not be possible.

This is one weekend you will definitely not want to miss in Amboy!

**Mayor John Schamberger**

*Welcome to the 2021 Amboy Depot Days!  
We Are Glad To Welcome You Back!*



*The City of Amboy  
thanks you for attending  
our annual event.*

*Mayor John Schamberger  
Alderman Jake Leffelman  
Alderman Greg Noble  
Alderman Brandon Klein  
Alderman Bill Bontz  
Alderman Dave Shaw  
Alderman Frank Stenzel*



# Something for everyone at 2021 Amboy Depot Days

**AMBOY** — The 2021 Annual Amboy Depot Days offers something for everyone. This year's festival runs Aug. 26-29.

The annual festival kicks off on Thursday night in downtown Amboy with the opening of the food stand and carnival. Thursday night is family night and all rides are \$2 for this special night. The Depot Days Little Dancers will take the Main Stage at 6:30 p.m. The Miss Amboy and Little Miss Amboy pageant will begin at 7 p.m. with the crowning of the new Miss Amboy at 8:30 p.m.

On Friday at 8 a.m., the community wide garage sales and the vendor booths downtown open for business. The food stands open at 10 a.m. and the carnival will open at 6 p.m. The carnival special for Friday night is \$20 bands for unlimited rides.

See **EVENTS** page 4



*The 30th Annual Amboy Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show will be held on Sunday, Aug. 29 in downtown Amboy.*

Amboy News file photo

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# EVENTS

 continued from page 3

The free concert on the Main Stage is The Beaux Band, sponsored by Johnson Oil/Shell Express Lane, from 9:30 – 1 a.m. The Knights of Columbus is again hosting a beer garden, where Class Field Trip will be performing.

Saturday morning kicks off bright and early at 7 a.m. with the Amboy Fire Department pancake breakfast. After breakfast, at 8

a.m., the annual Amboy Education Foundation Sylvan Shuffle Adult 5K Run/Walk begins.

The Amboy Farm Tractor Show will be held in downtown Amboy from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Also open in downtown Amboy at 8 a.m. will be the vendor booths. The community wide garage sales will open at 8 a.m.

The food stands open at

10 a.m. and the KC Beer Garden opens at 11 a.m.

The carnival opens at noon on Saturday and from noon to 3 p.m., they will offer an arm band special of \$20 for unlimited rides.

Mr. Steve Magic Show will be on the Main Stage beginning at 2 p.m. Whimsy Face Painting will be on hand in the Depot Parking lot decorating faces for free from 2 – 4 p.m.

The annual Amboy Lions Depot Days parade will step off at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Whiskey Romance will take the Main Stage for a free concert from 7- 9 p.m. The final act of the evening is live music of Burn 'n' Bush in the KC Beer Garden from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Sunday morning begins at 6 a.m. with the open-

ing of registration for the 30th annual Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show.

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 6:30 – 10 a.m., at the beer garden.

At 8 a.m., the downtown vendors and community wide garage sales open for business. The food stands open at 10 a.m.

Judging for the annual car show begins at 11:30 a.m.

At noon, the KC Beer Garden opens and the carnival will offer an arm band special of \$20 for unlimited rides from noon to 4 p.m.

The Depot Days car show awards will be presented at 3 p.m., followed by the 50/50 raffle winner

## 30th WORLD FAMOUS AMBOY DEPOT DAYS CAR SHOW COMMITTEE 2021 50/50 DRAWING

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10 -  
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**2019 Winner - \$105,425**

(Winners need not be present to win)

**Get your tickets NOW at the following locations: \$1 each or 6 for \$5**

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Mendota Hills Campground  
Pine View Campground

### DIXON: Shamrock Pub

### SUBLETTE:

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### OHIO: Harry's Pub

Ticket sales will end on Saturday, Aug. 28 at noon, at the Dixon, Ohio and Sublette locations.

Amboy locations will sell until noon on Sunday, Aug. 29.

Depot Days Drum is located at Amboy Food and Liquor.

For more information, check out the Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Facebook page.

Drawing Sunday, August 29 after the Car Show

Proceeds to benefit Community Projects

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# Amboy Depot Museum remains historical treasure

**AMBOY** - The Amboy Depot Museum is located in a former depot and division headquarters of the Illinois Central Railroad located in downtown Amboy. The structure is an architecturally unique two-story building built of brick and cut Joliet limestone and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Depot was completely restored over many years (1976 – 2003) both inside and out and includes the original brick tarmac surrounding the depot and the grounds of the former rail-yard, which is now preserved as the Clint Conway city park. At that time, reconstruction was done on the distinctive chimney caps on the building's eight chimneys, fully restoring the building to its original exterior configuration. Within the museum are artifacts of both the history of Amboy, Lee County and the Illinois Central Railroad.

Unfortunately, over the last 10 years, this time treasured building has weathered some harsh winters and rains which has caused the necessary need of major reconstruction/preservation of the parapet (white limestone edge at top) and much needed tuck pointing of the bricks. The Depot Museum recently partnered with Starved Rock Country Community Foundation, who is a 501(c)3 organization, which will allow donors to make tax-deductible contributions.

The Depot Museum with the support of the City of Amboy is in the process of launching a Restoration Project Fund with donations being handled by SRCCF. More information will soon be available.



The museum complex also includes a freight house with additional artifacts, a fully restored one-room country schoolhouse, a retired steam engine and a caboosse. Everyone is welcome to stop in and enjoy some local history at one of the best small-town depot museums to be found anywhere.

The Amboy Depot Museum and gift shop will be open to the public throughout Depot Days with extended hours. The Museum will be raffling a beautiful 79"X 79" handmade quilt by native, Becky Welty, on Sunday of Depot Days, with all proceeds going to the Renovation/Preservation Project.

Tickets are available now at Amboy City Hall, Amboy

Depot Museum and Amboy Thrift Store. The Depot Museum's regular hours are from 1 – 4 p.m., Sunday, and from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday. They are closed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Depot closes for the season from Nov. 1 through March 31. However, they are encouraging visitors to connect them if they want a private tour during any closed times, even during the winter. Send a message using Facebook or their e-mail.

The museum is located on Main Street, two blocks west of US 52. There is no admission; donations are accepted. They may be reached by phone at 815-857-4700 or e-mail [information@amboydepotmuseum.org](mailto:information@amboydepotmuseum.org).

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# AMBOY DEPOT DAYS

## August 26, 27, 28, 29

### Thursday, August 26 "Family Night"

- 5pm-10pm: Food stands open, Depot Museum Grounds
- 6pm-10pm: Carnival, Depot Museum Grounds - Family Night Special: All Rides \$2
- 6:30pm: Depot Days Little Dancers, Main Stage
- 7pm: Miss Amboy Pageant & Little Miss Amboy
- 8:30pm: Announcement of Miss Amboy 2021

### Friday, August 27

- 8am-4pm: Community Wide Garage Sales
- 8am-5pm: Craft Booths, Downtown
- 10am-10pm: Food stands open, Depot Museum Grounds
- 6pm-10pm: Carnival, Depot Museum Grounds - Arm bands \$20 for unlimited rides
- 7-9pm: The Beaux Band, Main Stage - FREE
- 9:30pm-1am: K.C. Beer Garden: Class Field Trip

### Saturday, August 28

- 7-11am: Pancake Breakfast by Amboy Fire Department, Beer Garden

- 8am: Sylvan Shuffle Adult 5K Run/Walk sponsored by Amboy Education Foundation - Call 815.857.2164 or register online.
- 8am-1pm: Amboy Farm Tractor Show, Downtown
- 8am-5pm: Community Wide Garage Sales
- 8am-5pm: Craft Booths, Downtown
- 10am-10pm: Food stands open, Depot Museum Grounds
- 11am-1am: K.C. Beer Garden, South of Bandstand
- Noon-3pm: Carnival, Depot Museum Grounds - Arm bands \$20 for unlimited rides
- 2pm: Mr. Steve Magic Show, Main Stage - FREE
- 2-4pm: Whimsy Face Painting, Depot Parking Lot - FREE
- 3pm: Depot Days Parade sponsored by the Amboy Area Lions Club - Sign up via the Lions Club website
- 7-9pm: Whiskey Romance, Main Stage - FREE
- 9pm-1am: K.C. Beer Garden: Burn 'n' Bush

**Amboy's Depot Days is presented to benefit the Amboy Depot Museum. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Depot Days Committee wishes to give a special thank you to the many people who volunteer their time, energy and funds to ensure the success of Depot Days.**

**Plenty of FREE parking is available! Thank you for joining us!**

## THE 2021 DEPOT DAYS SCHEDULE IS SPONSORED BY:

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# AMBOY DEPOT DAYS

## August 26, 27, 28, 29

### Sunday, August 29

- 6am-3pm: 30th Annual Depot Days Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, Downtown
- 6:30-10am: Pancake Breakfast by Knights of Columbus, Beer Garden
- 8am-4pm: Community Wide Garage Sales
- 8am-4pm: Craft Booths, Downtown
- 10am-4pm: Food stands open
- 11:30am: Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show Judging, Downtown
- Noon-5pm: K.C. Beer Garden, South of Bandstand
- Noon-4pm: Carnival, Depot Museum Grounds - Arm bands \$20 for unlimited rides
- 3pm: Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show Awards Presentation & 50/50 Drawing. The 2019 50/50 winner received \$105,425. Main Stage by Depot Museum

### INFORMATION BOOTHS

50/50 tickets available at Jones Berry Lumber, Two Sisters on Main, The Last Alarm, Amboy Thrift Store, The Long Branch Saloon, Depot Tap, Shell Express Lane, Mowers and More.

### DAILY INFORMATION

FREE SHUTTLE on Sunday. Park at Amboy School, 11 E. Hawley St. or the Amboy Community Center, 280 W Wasson Road.  
 First Aid & Cooling Center at the Lee County Farm Bureau, 37 S. East Avenue.  
 Food Stands & Restrooms are open all weekend on Depot Grounds.  
 Community-Wide Garage Sales: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8am-5pm. Garage sale maps available at City Hall or the information booth.  
 Museums open for viewing. Stop in and enjoy a little of Amboy's history. The Gift Shop will be open.  
 Car Show Registration and information - Contact Garth Dallam 815/857-2946. [www.amboycarshow.com](http://www.amboycarshow.com)

**NO PETS ALLOWED**

**Thank you to our Event Sponsors  
 Johnson Oil Company**

Amboy's Depot Days is presented to benefit the Amboy Depot Museum. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Depot Days Committee wishes to give a special thank you to the many people who volunteer their time, energy and funds to ensure the success of Depot Days.

**Plenty of FREE parking is available!  
 Thank you for joining us!**

## THE 2021 DEPOT DAYS SCHEDULE IS SPONSORED BY:

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# Entries Wanted for Amboy Lions Annual Depot Days Parade

**AMBOY** – The Amboy Lions Club is accepting parade entries for the 2021 Amboy Depot Days Parade. The parade takes place during Depot Days on Saturday, Aug. 28, at 3 p.m. This year's parade theme is "Celebrating 30 Years of Car Show Fun in 2021."

The parade line up will take place at Amboy City Park, E. Main Street, beginning at 1:30 p.m. with judging at 2:45 p.m.

The parade will cross IL Route 52 heading west and continue down Main Street and wrap up at the Amboy Middle School.

The 2021 parade will be announcer will be Dan Koch.

As in the past, cash prizes are offered in the following categories: Best of Theme, Marching Units, Kids, Tractors, Trucks, Cars, Horses, Clowns, Commercial and Judge's Choice. There is no entry fee to be in the Depot Days Parade.

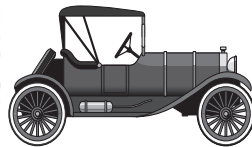
Registration is not required but appreciated, to register, contact Dave Kemp, Lions Club President, at Dskemp4@gmail.com, e-mail amboylionclub@gmail.com or register online at amboylionclub.com.

Parade entry forms are available at Amboy City Hall, 227 E. Main St., during regular office hours.



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time at this year's  
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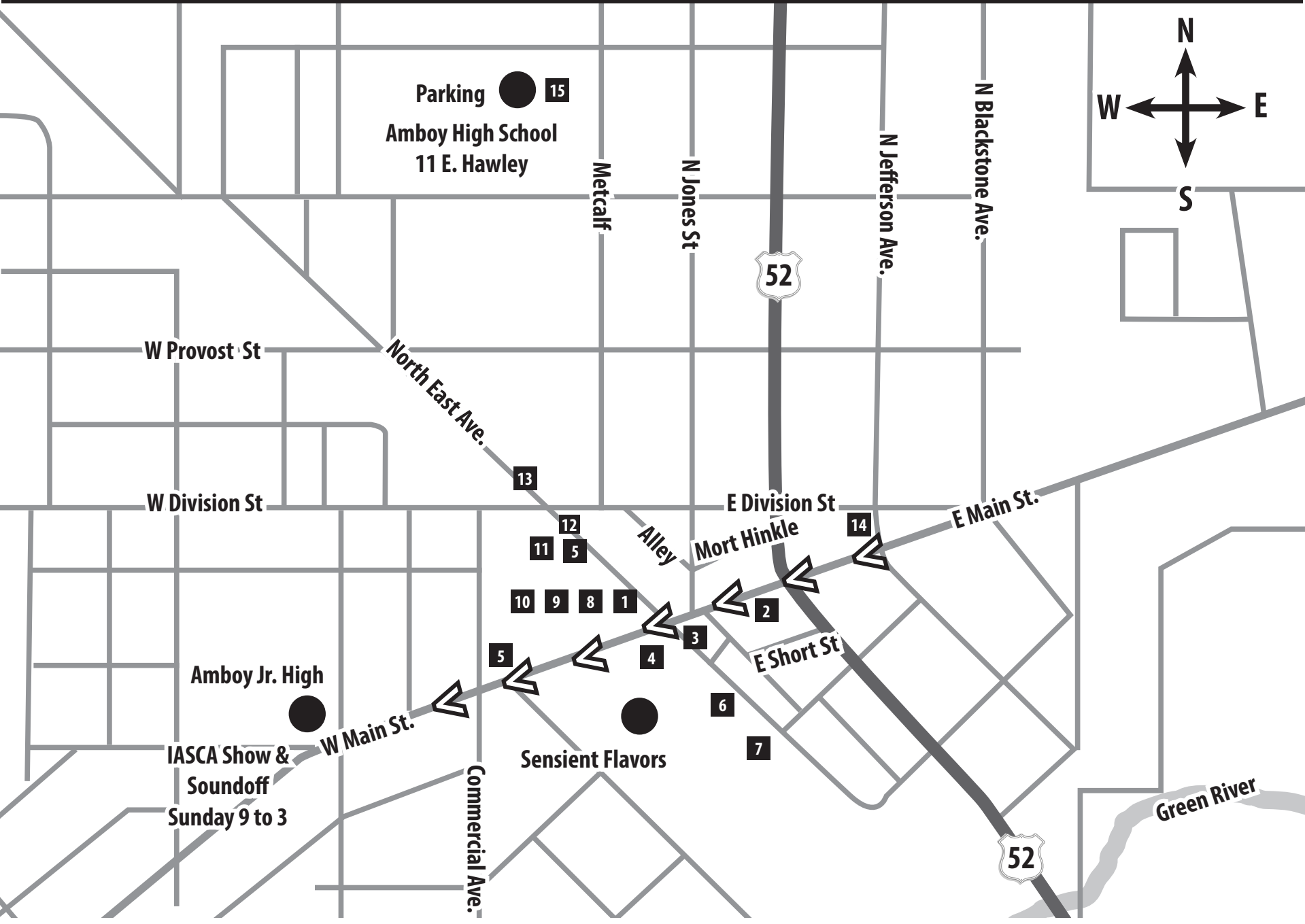
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# 2021 AMBOY DEPOT DAYS MAP

- |   |                                 |    |  |
|---|---------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Amboy Depot Museum & Main Stage | 9  | Carnival/Food Stands                           |
| 2 | City Hall/Police Department     | 10 | Freight House                                  |
| 3 | Information Booth               | 11 | Palmer School                                  |
| 4 | Car Show Registration/Bandstand | 12 | Veterans Park                                  |
| 5 | First Aid Station               | 13 | Fire Station                                   |
| 6 | K.C. Beer Garden                | 14 | First United Church                            |
| 7 | Rest Rooms                      | 15 | Parking and Free Shuttle to Downtown on Sunday |
| 8 | Rest Rooms                      |    |  |

< Parade Route





# Consummate Committee

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

Three decades ago, Hank Gerdes a well respected resident, business owner and future Mayor of Amboy drove thru town on Depot Days weekend.

“The meager affair pretty much consisted of a few booths and three ponies going around in a circle giving children rides,” Gerdes recalled. “I knew that we needed to do a better job for our town and the residents.”

So Gerdes gathered a group of his friends, all automobile enthusiasts, and organized the first car show and 50/50 raffle.

“We had a goal of five years which we thought would be quite a feat,” said Gerdes. “The two main things that have helped us stick around for 30 years is that

we are very well organized and we have dedicated people who continually show up and do their job. It fits like a puzzle and it’s always been that way.”

The show has evolved into the largest, most successful, and best yearly celebration in a six county region. Over the years besides getting the chance to marvel at the impressive collection of cars, trucks, and motorcycles on the Sunday of Depot Days weekend, the fest has featured, free of charge, musical groups, television entertainers such as Dennis Gage, from ‘My Classic Car, stars such as Butch Patrick, Eddie from the TV show The Munsters , and a ‘Barney Fife’ impersonator directing traffic and barking out orders.

See COMMITTEE page 11



*A group of automobile enthusiasts organized the first car show and 50/50 raffle three decades ago. Today, the show evolved into the largest, most successful, and best yearly celebration in a six county region.*

Amboy News file photo

**Join Us For The Amboy Volunteer Firefighters Depot Days All You Can Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast.**

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**Saturday, August 28**

**7 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

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**THE AMBOY LIONS CLUB IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE “CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CAR SHOW FUN IN 2021 PARADE” SATURDAY, AUG. 28 3 PM MAIN STREET**

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Visit [www.ambylionsclub.com](http://www.ambylionsclub.com)



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# COMMITTEE continued from page 10

“He would stop people on the street, write them tickets and just have everyone cracking up,” said Gerdes.

“The car show is one of the highlights of my years performing as the ‘Mayberry Deputy,’” said David Browning. “It was so much fun to direct all those vehicles out after the show. Leaving took a long time.”

There were 145 entries the first year (600 expected this year) which was unheard of at the time, and the 50/50 raffle, the brainchild of member Jeff Parker, guaranteed a \$1,500 purse, with \$750 going to one lucky winner.

“We knew back then that it wouldn’t work unless we raffled off a big prize that no one had ever heard of before,” explained Gerdes.

“We were a little nervous knowing that we would have to make up the difference out of our pockets if we didn’t raise the money but we made it,” laughed Gerdes.

There has been no nervousness or anxiety since then as the pot has grown consistently every year, but it wasn’t always easy.

“I remember myself and a friend walking up and down Main Street almost begging people to buy tickets to help us raise funds to renovate the Depot Museum which was initially the main objective of the committee” said Jeff Gerdes whose has been in charge of the 50/50 raffle since 1994.

See COMMITTEE page 12



*Amboy Lions Jim Travi and Roger Wittenauer unveiled a banner at the recent Amboy Lions’ Club meeting announcing who was this year’s Amboy Depot Days Parade Grand Marshalls. The club is honoring the original Depot Days car show committee this year.*

Mary Mays/Amboy News

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# COMMITTEE

 continued from page 11


*David Browning a 'Barney Fife' impersonator, is a fan favorite at the Depot Days Car Show, directing traffic and barking out orders.*

Amboy News File Photo

Fast forward a few years and the split was over \$46,000, then \$74,000 in 2014, and total sales are expected to exceed \$300,000 this year.

"People start asking us three months in advance now when we will be selling tickets," added Jeff Gerdes. "It's just gone crazy."

The Depot Museum is just one of the many recipients of the charitable donations bestowed to the city.

"The history of Amboy sits in our Museum," said Linda Disney, Museum Chairman. "We are so grateful to the Car Show Committee for all of their yearly support. Without it, we couldn't sustain the building."

The recipe for success for the last 30 years has been that most of the committee members are still involved.

"We all have worked for a common goal and that is to raise money for the Museum, Library, Fire Department, food pantry, schools

and Teen Turf," said Garth Dallam, whose been the car show committee chairman for the last 18 years. "We have no egos, everyone knows their role, we enjoy doing it, and it's a good feeling and something that we are proud of."

So much of the funds, well into the hundreds of thousands raised and donated have also benefited the citizens of Amboy by keeping taxes down and providing services that would otherwise be too costly to maintain.

This year, the Car Committee is being honored by the Amboy Lion's Club and has been named honorary Parade Marshals for their 30 years of selfless hard work, dedication and charitable contributions.

The members of the original car show committee include: Hank and Cindy Gerdes, Bill Gerdes, Jim Anderson, Donnie Pollard, Jim Ehmman, Rick and Kathy Ketchum, Jeff

Gerdes, Don Noble and Danny Ketchum.

"The committee has brought so much for so many and I feel in my heart that Depot Days wouldn't be where it is today without the efforts of this special group of volunteers," said Kathy Ketchum an original member who along with her late husband Rick co-chaired for 11 years. "To be recognized by our peers and friends makes it all worth it."

I asked Hank Gerdes if he will get the chance to savor the moment of being honored and acknowledging the crowd from the float.

"Sure, for a brief moment anyways," he said. "I will be thinking about the signs that need to go up on the highway and I'll probably jump off the float before we reach the end. It's a labor of love after all of these years for sure."

# Welcome to Amboy Depot Days

Enjoy a free concert of

**The Beaux Band**

**Friday, August 27**

from 7 pm - 9 pm on the Main Stage, in  
Downtown Amboy



08142019



Amboy Shell Express Lane  
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Sublette BP Gas  
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File photo

# Annual Depot Dash reveals new name

**AMBOY** — The Depot Day Dash has changed its name. It is now known as the Sylvan Shuffle 5K Run/Walk in honor of a founding member and longtime president of the Amboy Education Foundation, Sylvan Leffelman.

Sylvan helped the AEF grow from an entity with just a few thousand dollars in private donations to a Non-profit agency that has allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Amboy School District. Sylvan and his wife Virginia passed away this past year. This is just a small gesture to acknowledge a person/family that had given selflessly to this community for many years.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, Aug. 28. Online registration can be accessed through the Amboy High School website or at RunSignup.com.

This is a 5K Run/Walk that starts on the

track at Amboy High School. It serpentine past the Elementary School, Junior High School through the Sports Park and concludes in front of the historic train depot. This is a USATF Certified Course. The course itself is relatively flat and allows for fast race times.

Is your family the fastest in the area? Put together a family team of 5-10 runners and sign up for the Family Challenge. Maybe you and your kin can maintain bragging rights as the fastest family in the area.

Pre-race packet pick up will take place from 4 – 6:30 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 27, at the lobby of the new Amboy High School entrance. Check-in on Saturday will be from 6:45-7:45 a.m. near the high school entrance.

Walkers are welcome.

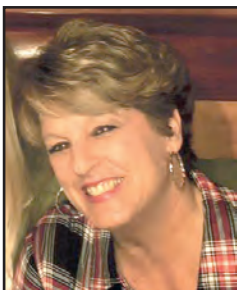
All proceeds benefit the students of the Amboy School District.

## ~Enjoy the Weekend~ @Amboy Depot Days!

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August 28, 2021

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	*Plus Processing Fee
Mail-In .....	\$25
Race Day .....	\$30

#### Pre-Race packet pickup:

Friday, August 27th from 4-6:30 pm at the lobby of the new High School entrance.

All proceeds to benefit the students of Amboy, CUSD 272.



## Class Field Trip to headline K of C Beer Garden

AMBOY — Grab your Converse and studded belts and get ready to rock out to all your favorite 90's and 2000's pop-punk hits! Class Field Trip will perform on Friday, Aug. 27 from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m., at the K.C.'s Beer Garden.

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Join us for a fun filled Depot Days!

08162017





Luke Strathman

## Whiskey Romance to take the stage on Saturday night

**AMBOY** — The annual Amboy Depot Days celebration is just around the corner.

The free musical entertainment for the annual festival has been announced. Performing on Saturday, Aug. 28, from 7 – 9 p.m., on the Main Stage is Whiskey Romance.

Whiskey Romance Band is one of Chicago’s premier country artists. The band has a wide repertoire of country favorites covering the latest hits and band originals. They are true to the original recordings and work to ensure the crowd enjoys a lively and entertaining show. The members come from unique professional backgrounds and

share the same passion for country music, polished performances and a good time.

Whiskey Romance Band promotes a fun atmosphere of audience engagement and consistently promises new music and great set lists with artists like: Band Perry, Luke Bryan, Lady Antebellum, Miranda Lambert, Jason Aldean, Florida Georgia Line, Carrie Underwood, Blake Shelton, Little Big Town, Taylor Swift, and Kenny Chesney. The show has something for everyone.

The amazing talent and versatility is exactly what keeps fans coming back for more.



Amboy News file photo

## Tractor Show planned on Saturday

**AMBOY** — The 21st Annual Amboy Depot Days Tractor Show will be held from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 28, in downtown Amboy, at the Sensient Parking Lot.

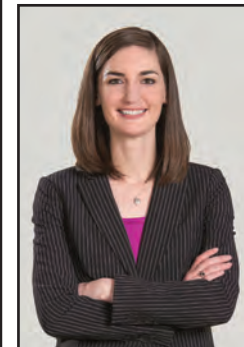
Tractors will receive dash plaques and door prizes.

The tractors will also take part in the annual Depot Days parade. Line-up for the parade starts at 1 p.m., with the parade beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information about the annual tractor show, please contact John at 815-973-4676.



Linda A. Giesen



Kelly L. Flessner

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# The Beaux Band takes the stage on Friday night

**AMBOY** — The annual Amboy Depot Days celebration is just around the corner.

The free musical entertainment for the annual festival has been announced. Performing on Friday, Aug. 27, from 7 – 9 p.m., on the Main Stage is The Beaux Band.

The Beaux are a Classic Rock Cover Band serving Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin.

The band pays tribute to the best rock music of our lives. Everything from The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Chicago, Journey, Bon Jovi,

The Doors, Creedance Clearwater, REO Speedwagon, Badfinger, Bonnie Raitt, Tommy James, The Doobie Brothers, STYX, Bob Seger, Steppenwolf, Moody Blues, Santana, The Cars, Tom Petty, Cream, The Romantics, Stealers Wheel, Pat Benatar, BTO, Collective Soul, Chuck Berry, Steppenwolf, Todd Rundgren, ZZ Top, The Eurythmics and many more.

The band originally formed back in 1967 and played regularly throughout Northern Illinois until 1973. Though they never broke

up, life (college, marriage, family, etc.) “interrupted”. After a 38 year “break”, some of the original members of the band re-formed in 2011 for a one night “reunion” performance.

It was such a blast they decided to keep it going. Joining original member John “Monk” Montgomery (Lead Vocals and Drums) are Hans Stucki (Keyboards, Guitar and Vocals), Ron Hoyle (Bass Guitar), Tim Schulz (Lead Guitar, Vocals), Lindasue Saballus and Jennifer Jones (Vocals, Percussion)

## AMBOY

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# The Story Behind the Headline

The 50/50 drawing is the most exciting part of the Amboy Depot Days for many people. As part of the Depot Days celebration the car show started having a 50/50 drawing. In the early days, the ticket holder took home 50 percent of the drawing and the Amboy Depot was the recipient of the other cash. The Amboy Depot Museum is still a recipient of a cash donation, but the car show committee has had the opportunity to donate to many other community interests as well.

The drawing grew over the years and the recipient list has grown as well. Over the years, the lucky ticket holders have realized winnings of anywhere from \$8,400 in 2001 to \$149,333 in 2015. The 50/50 drawing grew at a rapid rate over the past few years. The winner in 2019 took home \$105,425.

This year, there will be 10 second place winners who will receive \$3,000 cash each.

But the real winners are the local organizations that benefit from a piece of the pot. Some of the previous recipients were Amboy, Sublette and Ashton fire departments, Amboy Depot Museum, local food pantries, Lee County Fair Association, Ashton Lions Club, Lee County Shop with a Cop, Buddy Bags, Lee County Ag in the Classroom, Dixon PADS Shelter, Amboy's Central School Library, Pankhurst Memorial Library, Amboy FFA Chapter, Amboy Lions Club, BWB & the A-Team, Lee County Veterans Assistance Committee, Lee County Emergency Management Agency, City of Amboy, Amboy American Legion, Lee County Historical Society, Franklin Grove Fundraisers, Teen Turf, Special Olympics, and Sublette 365.

Each year organizations are able to submit a request for a donation from the committee to assist with their needs. The letter needs to be clear on what the funds are being sought for and the amount they are requesting.

After the car show is done, the committee meets to re-

See **50/50** page 19



*50/50 Raffle tickets are dropped into the large drum during the festival. Have you purchased your tickets yet?*

Amboy News File Photo

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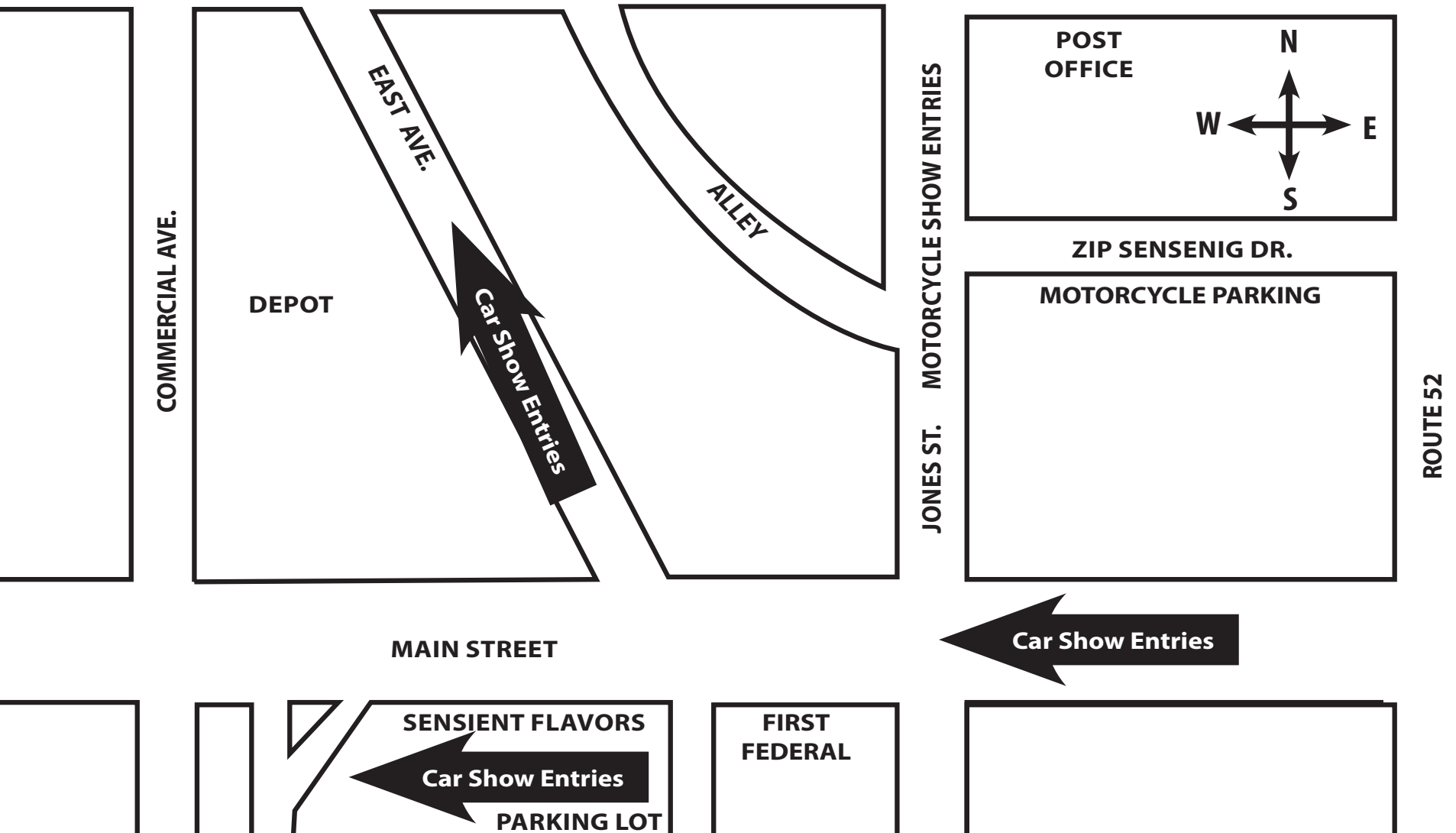
Sublette IL

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Saturday and Sunday 8am - 12pm





# 2021 AMBOY DEPOT DAYS CAR SHOW MAP



## CAR, TRUCK & MOTORCYCLE SHOW CLASSES

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>A</b> Rest. - Orig. Models A - B - T                                     | <b>R</b> Corvettes 1968 - 1982                             | <b>II</b> Special Interest - Cars Only, Unique Vehicles                     |
| <b>B</b> Rest. - Orig. Antique Cars 1948 & Older                            | <b>S</b> Corvettes 1984 - 1996                             | <b>JJ</b> Special Interest- Other Than Cars                                 |
| <b>C</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1949 - 1954                                     | <b>T</b> Corvettes 1997- Present                           | <b>KK</b> Cruiser Class - Non-Judged Class for Exhibition Only, Any Vehicle |
| <b>D</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1955 - 1956 - 1957                              | <b>U</b> Customs (includes Low Riders)                     | <b>LL</b> Harley Davidson Stock Big Twin                                    |
| <b>E</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1958 - 1963                                     | <b>V</b> Street Machines 1949- 1957                        | <b>MM</b> Harley Davidson Custom Modified Big Twin                          |
| <b>F</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1964 - 1965                                     | <b>W</b> Street Machines 1958 - 1965                       | <b>NN</b> Harley Davidson Dressers  |
| <b>G</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1966 - 1967                                     | <b>X</b> Street Machines 1966- 1967                        | <b>OO</b> Vintage Chopper & Vintage Harley Davidson 00-1994 & older         |
| <b>H</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1968 - 1969                                     | <b>Y</b> Street Machines 1968 - 1969                       | <b>PP</b> Harley Davidson Sportsters  |
| <b>I</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1970 - 1972                                     | <b>Z</b> Street Machines 1970 - 1975                       | <b>QQ</b> Stock Trikes  |
| <b>J</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1973 - 1986                                     | <b>AA</b> Street Machines 1976- Present                    | <b>RR</b> Radical Baggers   |
| <b>K</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars 1987 - 2005                                     | <b>BB</b> Pro Street Cars & Trucks -Tubbed                 | <b>SS</b> Special Interest - Bobbers, Hillclimbers, Trikes, Rats, etc.      |
| <b>L</b> Rest. - Orig. Cars & Trucks 2006 - Present , Cleanest Vehicle Wins | <b>CC</b> Rest. - Orig. Trucks 1969 & Older                | <b>TT</b> Metric Motorcycles & Indians                                      |
| <b>M</b> Street Rods - Steel Bodies 1934 & Older                            | <b>DD</b> Rest. - Orig. Trucks 1970 -2005                  | <b>UU</b> Antique Metric 1994 & Older                                       |
| <b>N</b> Street Rods - Steel Bodies 1935 - 1939                             | <b>EE</b> 4X4 Trucks Modified                              | <b>VV</b> Rockets   |
| <b>O</b> Street Rods - Steel Bodies 1940 - 1948                             | <b>FF</b> 4X2 Trucks Modified 1953 & Older                 | <b>WW</b> Choppers  |
| <b>P</b> Street Rods - Glass Bodies   | <b>GG</b> 4X2 Trucks Modified 1954 & Newer                 | <b>XX</b> Non-Judged Exhibit Only All Models                                |
| <b>Q</b> Corvettes 1953-1967  | <b>HH</b> Convertibles (top up for judging - no Corvettes) |   |



**50/50** continued from page 17

cap the recent show and to review the requests. The entire committee votes on the requests and decides on the amount to be rewarded.

Another way that the committee gives back is by offering scholarships to students who will be attending a trade school.

Other sources of revenue for the car show is the sale of t-shirts and hats.

Tickets are available now at the following locations:

In Amboy at The Last Alarm, Amboy Thrift Store, Jones Berry Lumber, The Long Branch Saloon, Two Sisters on Main, Depot Tap, Mowers and More, Green River Oaks Campground, Mendota Hills Campground, Pine View Campground, and Shell

Express Lane.

In Sublette, Bonnell's General Store, The Sublette Saloon, and Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Inc.

In Dixon at the Shamrock Pub.

In Ohio at Harry's Pub.

The tickets sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Ticket sales will end on Saturday, Aug. 28 at noon, at the Dixon, Ohio, and

Sublette locations.

Amboy locations will sell until noon on Sunday, Aug. 29.

Depot Days Drum is located at Amboy Food and Liquor.

Winners need not be present to win. You can follow the drawing information on Facebook at Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Drawing.

Be sure and get a ticket, you just never know, it could be your lucky year.



*Volunteers from the community help sell the 50/50 raffle tickets during Depot Days.*

Amboy News file photo



*Tables are set up for festival goers to fill out their 50/50 raffle tickets before placing them in the large drum.*

Amboy News file photo

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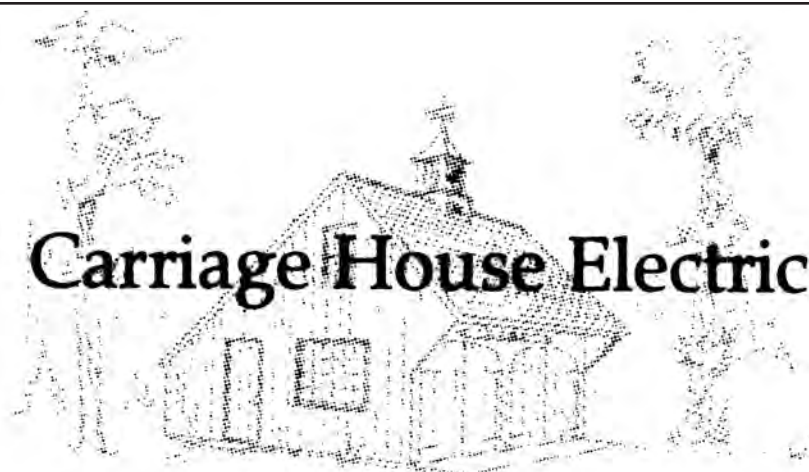
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# Scenes from previous Amboy Depot Days





# A festival of flavorful food awaits at Depot Days

**AMBOY** – Enjoy some taste tempting treats all four days of Depot Days 2021. Food vendors will open for business on the Depot Museum grounds starting at 5 p.m. on Thursday evening and be on hand continuously through Sunday. If you are looking for gyros, pizza, corn dogs, brats, funnel cakes, ice cream and a wide array of other tasty treats, you will find them in Amboy.

On Saturday morning, get off to a great start with a hearty pancake breakfast in the beer garden in downtown Amboy, where the Amboy Volunteer Fire Department will serve from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Then fuel up again on Sunday morning with a pancake and sausage breakfast served by the Knights of Columbus at the beer garden, downtown Amboy from 6:30-10 a.m.

Don't forget, Amboy's local dining establishments also serve great food and offer a break from the heat.



## Mr. Steve Magic Show to entertain

**AMBOY** — Mr. Steve Magic Show has been entertaining kids and families for more than 30 years, and he will be performing on the Main Stage at 2 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 28, during Amboy Depot Days.

With a funny grin, a contagious laugh, and an impish childlike enthusiasm, Steve Lundquist is not your run-of-the-mill entertainer.

His 30 years of experience has taken him all over the United States, and he has even performed in Africa. Not only is he the consummate entertainer, but he also has a 29 song children's CD entitled "Elephants & Kangaroos / Wonderful Things I Remember". His 22 page rhyming picture book "Bossy & Bernerd's Stillman Valley Farm" was published in 2015. A great gift for the young...and the young at heart.

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\$21 Sa-Su 9 holes  
\$36 Sa-Su 18 holes

### Sept. 7 - Close

\$15 M-F 9 holes  
\$25 M-F 18 holes  
\$15 Sa-Su 9 holes  
\$25 Sa-Su 18 holes

### Walk 9 holes

May 21 - Close \$9

### Walk 18 holes

May 21 - Close \$18

Kids 14 - 18 1/2 Price  
Kids under 14 with  
adult ALWAYS play  
FREE!



## Enjoy Depot Days Weekend!





## Burn N' Bush takes stage in beer garden

**AMBOY** — The ever popular Burn N' Bush 2 man acoustic band from Ashton, will take the stage in the K.C.'s beer garden on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. The duo features Rod BURNette on vocals, cajon, and kazoo and Dave BUSHman on vocals and guitar. Enjoy Burn N' Bush as they play a variety of Rock, Country and Oldies, and their brand of fun/sing-along/standards

# Depot Days Craft Show & local merchants offer a variety of bargains

**AMBOY** - Crafters will start lining the streets of downtown Amboy on Friday morning, Aug. 27 and be open for business at 8 a.m. Various items will be available for sale until 5 p.m. on Friday, and 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28, and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 29.

Be sure to browse through the colorful downtown booths and see all the unique handmade items offered by crafters this year.

In addition, vendors with all types of new merchandise will line the streets of Amboy.

While shopping down-

town, be sure to also stop in and visit Amboy's local merchants. The local shops will have many great items to offer during Depot Days.



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# Scenes from previous Amboy Depot Days







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**1854 Richardson  
 Road,  
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 \$79,900**

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**1311 Avenue J,  
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- 402 W SANTEE ST., SUBLETTE **CONTINGENT**.....\$179,000
- 974 US HIGHWAY 52, AMBOY **CONTINGENT**.....\$169,900
- 1707 SHAW ROAD, AMBOY **PENDING**.....\$169,900
- 207 S. JOHN ST., SUBLETTE **CONTINGENT**.....\$149,900
- 117 W HAWLEY ST., AMBOY **CONTINGENT**.....\$139,900
- 525 MAZY ROAD, AMBOY **CONTINGENT**.....\$100,000
- 2011 E LEFEVRE ROAD, STERLING **CONTINGENT**.....\$89,000
- 762 N 3906TH ROAD, TRIUMPH **SOLD**.....\$24,000

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