



42ND ANNUAL
SUBLETTE
FARM TOY & ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW
SATURDAY, MARCH 16
& SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

A SUPPLEMENT TO
The Mendota Reporter
Established In 1854
The Amboy News
ROCHELLE
News-Leader
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

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Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



Wednesday, March 6, 2024
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Welcome To
SUBLETTE



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U.S.A.

Village of Sublette
 PO Box 86
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www.subletteweb.com

On behalf of the Village of Sublette, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone back to Sublette's "Annual Antique Tractor and Toy Show."

The 'toy show' is made possible by the work and generosity of our committee, volunteers, exhibitors, and organizations who give their time, energy, ideas, and creativity to produce an enjoyable experience for an afternoon - or perhaps the entire weekend!

Our beautiful, little village has plenty to offer! While you are here, I encourage you to visit our businesses - ranging from restaurants with home cooking, to unique shops and more!

We are happy to see you again! Because of your unwavering loyalty, Sublette remains "The little town with the BIG toy show!"

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful toy show! Stay awhile and come back often!

Sincerely,

John R. Stenzel
 Village President of Sublette

Welcome to the Sublette Farm Toy Show

March 16th & 17th



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Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



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Rain, rain stay away to let the Toy Show have great days

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE—Last year's Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show didn't have the best weather.

Actually, it was miserable with cold winds and rain.

This year, all fingers are crossed Mother Nature doesn't ruin the party.

"The show takes a lot of preparation. We have six committee members in John Stenzel, Anthony Morgan, Mark Henkel, Jeremy Zapf, Evan Bickett, and myself, and a lot, a lot of volunteers who are putting this thing together," said Maurice Zimmerlein, who doesn't like to be called the committee president but is viewed as the lead chairman. "There are people who will come out of the woodwork a week before the show to help us set up. It really works out. It's a community minded event.

"As every year, we're

hoping for a beautiful spring day with nothing but sun and maybe a few clouds in the air. The weather has a strong influence in the show's turnout."

Weather aside, the 42nd annual toy and tractor show looked to be in fashion for large crowds, big tractors, and enormous fun.

"We depend a lot on the locals for volunteerism. It takes a lot of volunteers to bring in the local tractors," Zimmerlein said. "We usually get 100-200 tractors and 6-10 semi-tractors on the Sublette streets; Main Street mostly. We have a lot of local farmers that bring equipment to town.

"We get support from local dealerships. We get monetary support from a lot of the local businesses. With John Deere being this year's featured tractor company and it being prevalent in our area, we could see a spike in numbers across the board.

The volunteers and committee members set up and take down tables and take money at the doors of the five different buildings housing the show, which are Main Street Repair, Jacoby Building, Sublette Farmers Elevator, Sublette Community Building, and the Ellice Dinges Center.

A few changes have been made to the regular scheduled programming.

After hosting a Saturday cookout for many shows, the Illinois Pork Producers are no longer going to man grills, for this year's event or others moving forward.

The money the pork producers used to give to two food pantries is being supplemented by the tractor and toy show group as \$500 dollars will be given to two local food pantries.

Evan Orzech, who bought the building formerly owned by Chris Leffelman, Leffelman Automotive, brought in

Orzech Auto Truck & Towing LLC, will showcase a large model train.

The show's shuttle will include Orzech Auto to the stop schedule so riders can check out the new to Sublette choo choo train.

Zimmerlein and the committee are thrilled to continually change, adapt, and install new people and attractions to the Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show for 42 years.

"When it first started, it was back in the 1980s and toy shows

were a fairly new thing. There were a lot of guys that collected farm toys years ago," Zimmerlein said. "I think it's a little more family orientated now.

"I'm a vendor myself. I've been setting up a table, buying, and selling at the toy show since 1985. What I like to see is a lot of families come through with younger kids. It's good to see younger people getting involved with it because there are a lot of older collectors."

Zimmerlein mentioned there are a lot of avid collectors

who have cast iron toys that were made in the 1800s, and added, those are worth some money if you have them.

The committee president is always interested in what everyone brings to the toy show.

"We handed out questionnaires to our vendors two years ago to get an opinion on what we should do different," Zimmerlein said. "Everyone likes what we have. They like coming to the show. We're going to try to not change anything and keep it going the way it is."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome To SUBLETTE



OUR BIT OF THE
U.S.A.

March 16 & 17
SUBLETTE ANTIQUE
TRACTOR & TOY SHOW

March 17
FIREMANS PANCAKE
BREAKFAST

March 30
SUBLETTE INDIANS 4H
EASTER EGG HUNG

May 18
CRUISE NIGHT 4PM TO
7PM

May 27
MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

June 25
FARMERS MARKET
(TENTATIVE)

July 13
MUSIC ON MAIN
(TENTATIVE)

July 30
FARMERS MARKET
(TENTATIVE)

Aug. 7
ONE DAY TRACTOR
DRIVE

Aug. 27
FARMERS MARKET
(TENTATIVE)

Sept. 7
HOPS & HARMONY

Sept. 8
PULLIN' IN THE PARK

Sept. 14
COUNTRY CAR SHOW

Sept. 24
FARMERS MARKET
(TENTATIVE)

Sept. 27, 28 & 29
ANTIQUE POWER SHOW -
MENDOTA HILLS

Oct. 4 or 5
SIP N STROLL
(TENTATIVE)

Oct. 31
TRICK OR TREAT

Nov. 30
SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY

Dec. 1
CHRISTMAS IN THE
VILLAGE

*Welcome to the 42nd
annual Sublette Farm Toy
& Antique Tractor Show!
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shops and restaurants!!*

Sublette Business Association

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Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



Call all green tractors, equipment to represent the featured company, John Deere

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

SUBLETTE – The rotation of featured tractors at the Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show has revolved to a popular company.

Anytime you see a green tractor, one name comes to mind, John Deere.

“Our feature changes from year to year between eight different brands of tractors from old to new. Some companies are no longer around but there are still the antique tractors in this area,” said Maurice Zimmerlein, who is recognized as the president of the Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show Committee, although he’ll deny and tell you the committee works together. “John Deere

has always been big in this area. They have such a big dealer network, and a lot of local farmers are either John Deere or CASE IH. I prefer the John Deere because that is what I grew up on.”

All green tractors, equipment, and toys are welcome by the committee, including the featured John Deere tractor, the John Deere 4020 as it celebrates its 60th birthday.

John Deere as the feature promises to bring out machinery from the local area in droves.

At the same time, the popularity of the brand is bringing in showcase tractors from the entire Midwest.

Classic Green, an organization based

out of Burlington, Iowa that has expanded to 700-plus members through North America including Canada, will be in attendance.

“I haven’t been to the show in Sublette before,” said Darren Redding, the president of Classic Green. “I don’t have exact numbers, but I think there are only one or two people from our group, who are going this year, that have been there before. It’s going to be brand new for the majority of us who are going to represent Classic Green.

“I’m really looking forward to it. It’s kind of hard to come by a show that’s a toy and tractor display show, all in one, especially this early in the season. I’ve heard of the Sublette Farm toy & Antique Tractor Show in the past, but I’ve never had the chance to go before.

“I can’t wait. I have a tractor that I’m bringing to put on display and I’ll be there for Classic Green for our set up and to push our membership and the benefits of being a member.

Redding will show a 1962 version of the 4010, the predecessor of the 4020.

The tractor isn’t only special because of its age or importance to the company, but also for what it means to him and his father, Mark Redding.

“I lost my dad in November 2022. I lost my travel companion. My knight in shining armor only goes with him in spirit now,” said Redding. “I’m continuing what we’ve done. I don’t think he’d want me to give it up. I’m going to keep going.



“I’m actually bringing a tractor that my dad and I had started putting back together. We were working on it at the time he passed away. I was able to finish it last fall. I’m making a debut with the tractor. I’m happy and excited to take the tractor to the next level and show everyone the work dad and I did on the tractor.

“It’s a feel-good kind of thing for me knowing this tractor was the last thing my dad and I worked on as a team.”

John Deere has impacted many farms and families in different ways.

The featured company is sure to bring out many more fond memories during the 42nd Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show.

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Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



'Why isn't there an organization for John Deere?' prompts the creation of Classic Green

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE—In 2018, a very good question was asked in Burlington, Indiana.

“A group of us came together and said, ‘There are all of these other organizations for other colored tractors, why isn't there an organization for John Deere?’” said Darren Redding, the president of Classic Green.

“We decided to try to do something. That's where it spearheaded, a group of people that thought John Deere collectors and enthusiasts of the brand deserved an organization.

“We are anything and everything related to John Deere or John Deere associates and partnering companies. We don't care if the stuff runs, if it's rusty, if it's painted, if it's dragged in on a chain, or if you drive it. As long as it's a John Deere piece you're proud of and you love owning it, you're part of our group.

“We don't turn many

people away. If you have a love for the brand, which John Deere has a significant brand and logo that is worldwide, we want would love to have you part of Classic Green.”

Redding, 54, of Burlington, Ind., and seven others created Classic Green in 2018.

He started as the vice president and was named the president in June 2023.

Classic Green has more than 700 paid members (\$25 for yearly membership) which have the ability to enter more options than unpaid viewers on the website, classicgreen.org.

On Facebook, Classic Green has 88,000-plus followers.

“We're really excited about our numbers. Naturally, we would like them to bigger and we hope they grow in time,” Redding said. “That's what we're working on. We have great people in position on the board of directors and committees

we've created internally to actually go out, represent Classic Green, and promote sponsorship, shows and events.”

Classic Green holds its own event, the Classic Green Reunion, every other year on odd years,

but makes sure it attends as many shows held by other organizations throughout the year.

Hence a stop in Sublette.

“It's a labor of love. There is a lot of work behind the scenes and

there is a lot of work up front,” Redding said. “We've got a fantastic core group of people. We have a 15-member board of directors and we're scattered all over the country. We definitely have great input

from all over, it's not centralized.

“It makes it even better because we get ideas and brainstorming from every corner of the United States. We also have a board member in Canada.”

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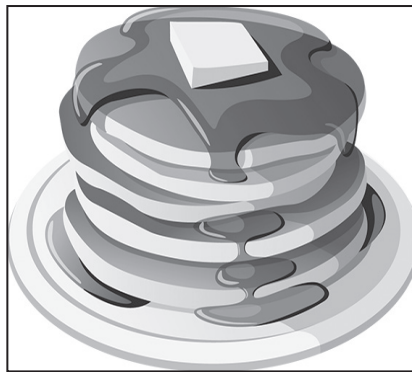


Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



Sublette Fire Dept. to cook up pancakes & sausages

One of the popular events of the Sublette Toy Show is the annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast served by the Sublette Volunteer Fire Department. The breakfast is served on the Sunday of the show from 7 a.m. until noon at the Sublette Fire Department. It's a great opportunity to start your day with a good breakfast and help out the local fire department.



Did you miss your exit? Not to worry. Look for Sublette's "Next 4 Exit" signs

When approaching Sublette on U.S. 52 from either direction, be sure to watch for the "Next 4 Exits" signs. These tongue-in-cheek signs were erected years ago for a community celebration and have been so popular that they are left up all year long. The signs have brought smiles to many travelers as they approach Sublette. So when you get to Sublette,

be sure to take the correct exit.

You will also notice the recreated Burma Shave signs that are located one-half mile southeast of town along U.S. 52. These signs are the only "official" set of Burma Shave signs in Illinois. They were awarded to Sublette by Reminisce magazine following a contest held a number of years ago.



Shop in Sublette during the Toy & Tractor Show

The Sublette Mini Mall as well as numerous other Sublette businesses will be open during the Sublette Toy Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show. This is a great opportunity to explore the many businesses that make up the community.

In the Mini Mall, Ellie

Rae's is a quaint boutique offering gifts and clothing, while Little Ruth's Boutique offers custom, handmade, and unique children's clothing.

Local Cup and Cake is the place to get your special cup of coffee along with cupcakes and muf-

fins. The shop is listed on the Blackhawk Chocolate Trail, so you may find some special chocolate items on the menu.

Suds Yer Duds, Sublette's laundromat, is also located in the Mini Mall and vows that "we're cleaning up the town."

Volunteers of all generations, locations thanked for their hard work in making the toy show a success

An event as large as the Sublette Toy Show could not be done without a lot of volunteers. It takes volunteers to plan, volunteers to work at the show and volunteers to clean up.

It is estimated between 150 and 200 volunteers are involved annually in staging the show. These volunteers are not just from Sublette,

but many of the neighboring communities, and some even travel for many miles to help with the show as they enjoy the small-town atmosphere and farm-related activities.

Also helping at the two-day event will be 6-12 FFA members from both Amboy High School and Mendota High School. They will help set up Saturday morning and take down on Sunday.



WELCOME!

to everyone attending the

Sublette Farm Toy Show!

Please join us for these & other upcoming events!

- Mendota Easter Hop - March 23, 9am-11am
- Sweet Corn Festival Golf Outing - June 2
- Fireworks at Lake Mendota - June 29
- 77th annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival - Aug. 8-11

www.sweetcornfestival.com

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- El Zarape Rt. 251
- La Esquinita de Oro Ice Cream Shop 1206 6th Ave.
- Main Street Station 714 Main St.
- McDonald's 1503 13th St.
- U.S. 34 East
- Mendota Moose Lodge 211 E. 12th St.
- Pizzas by Marchelloni 1210 Meriden St.
- Rosati's Sports Pub 801 Sixth St.
- Subway Rt. 251 North

- Ziggie's Family Restaurant Rt. 34 East

Food Trucks

- (locations may vary)
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 - Tacos Guzman
 - Flo's on Pulaski

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- Quality Inn & Suites Rt. 34 East at I-39
- Super 8 Motel 2601 E. 12th St.

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The feature of the feature: John Deere 4020 celebrates 60th anniversary

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Although the tractor manufacturer John Deere is the overall feature, the feature has a feature.

It's the 60th year anniversary of the John Deere 4020, which is known as changing the way tractors were made.

"All models of John Deere equipment are welcome to showcase. We would like to feature the Model 4020 tractor because it's the 60th year of the tractor," said Maurice Zimmerlein, the president of the Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show Committee. "We're looking for those specifically. I know there are a lot of those in the area and we're trying to get them to the show."

The 4020 was produced from 1964 to 1972 as it replaced the 4010, which was nearly an identical tractor introduced with John Deere's New Generation Series in 1960. The 4020 offered three different engines with diesel, petrol or LPG. The 4020 had a six-cylinder engine which tested at 84 drawbar and 91 PTO horsepower.

According to tractordata.com, John Deere made 184,879 of the 4020s and it

sold for \$10,345 in 1972.

The 4020 is known for provided operators with comfort in the cab, deluxe seats, and hydraulic controls to replace levers.

Darren Redding, the president of Classic Green, an organization built on appreciation for John Deere, lists 4020 on top of all green tractors.

"I'm going to speak biasedly. In my opinion, strictly my opinion and everyone has their own opinion, reading different articles, talking to farmers and other collectors, and researching, I believe the 4020 is what set John Deere apart from the rest," Redding said. "They were moving from the two-cylinder engine era into the multiple-cylinder engines. It was a big step. The 4020 was definitely a well-rounded piece of machinery for the user, the farmer, who was using it for work.

"In my opinion, the 4020 is the greatest thing John Deere has ever done. "You'd be surprised how many 4020s are still running around on farms today, either as a user tractor, stashed away as a show tractor, or as a keepsake. The 4020 is highly significant in the physical makeup of the company John Deere."



The John Deere 4020 was produced from 1964-1972. The tractor, which is nearly identical to its predecessor, the John Deere 4010, is offered three different engines, provided comfort in the cab, deluxe seats, and hydraulic controls to replace levers.



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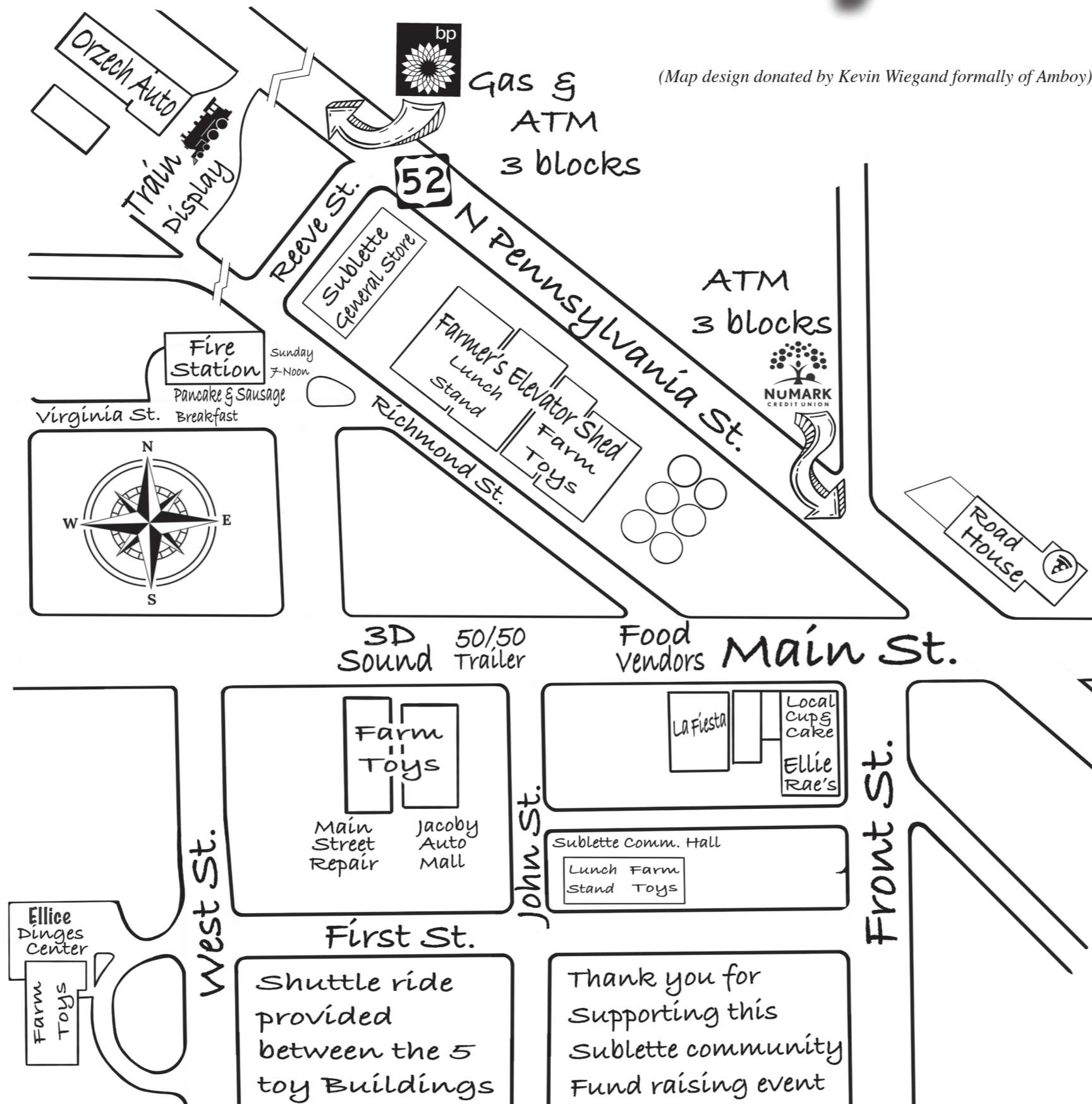
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42nd Annual Farm Toy Show

(Map design donated by Kevin Wiegand formally of Amboy)



42nd Annual Farm Toy Show Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Farm Toy Show
Main Street Repair
Jacoby Building
Sublette Farmers Elevator
Sublette Community Building
Ellice Dinges Center
Antique & Farm Machinery

Sunday, March 17, 2024

7 a.m. to noon Sublette Firemen's Pancake and Sausage
Breakfast At the Sublette Fire Station

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Farm Toy Show
Semi-Tractor, Antique Tractor & Farm
Machinery Show in Downtown Sublette

Both Days

*Sub-Let Indians and Maytown Comets 4-H Food Stands at
Community Building and Sublette Elevator*





Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



In memory of Diane Jacoby

The Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show Committee and many others will walk into the Jacoby Building to view toys with heavy hearts this year.

For numerous toy shows, David and Diane Jacoby have offered their property to showcase some of the best farm toy shows around.

On February 22, Diane passed away with David, her loving husband of 60 years, at her side.

The Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show Committee gives thoughts and prayers to the Jacoby family and a special rest in peace to Diane.



Andy Clean brings soap to Sublette

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Part of the reason tractors sparkle in the sunlight during the Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show is the exquisite care their owners induct.

Since 2018, Andy Clean has been a primary name when it comes to washing farm machinery.

“The people really responsible for Andy Clean becoming a product and the reason the soap was created is because of the people online sharing, re-sharing, commenting, and reacting with the photos,” said Andy Pasztor, the owner of Andy Clean. “I’d like to say I did 10 percent of the work, but honestly, I did two percent of the work because I’m not the chemist who created the soap and I didn’t do the



marketing work, people online did.”

The idea for Andy Clean came out of the blue, out of social media dust.

Pasztor, a farmer based in Ontario, Canada, shared photos of himself washing a combine on X (formerly Twitter) in 2014.

One repost led to an-

other and soon enough reactions and comments had started a trend, Andy Clean.

Fast forward four years, 2018, Pasztor received a package from John Deere with Andy Clean stickers. Pasztor began marketing as he sent the stickers to different countries in five of the seven continents.

At this time, the highlight of Andy Clean came in 2022 when John Deere featured a tractor with an Andy Clean sticker visually mounted during a global advertisement.

“It was mind blowing,” said Pasztor, who farms and is in business with his father Arpad Pasztor and his brother Mike Pasztor. “To have your sticker, your brand on a John Deere tractor is amazing.”

Andy Clean, for the first time, is coming to the 2024 Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show to bring the product directly to the community of Illinois farmers.

For more information before meeting Pasztor at the show, check out the Andy Clean website at www.andyclean.ca.



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What's on the menu?

The Sublette Toy and Antique Tractor Show is one of the longest-running shows in the Midwest. It will be celebrating its 42nd anniversary this year.

The first show was held in just one building and drew over 600 visitors. From there, the show has continued to grow to where it covers five buildings and displays throughout the town.

The show includes toys, crafts, an outdoor tractor show, a model train display (new this year at Orzech Towing), a semi-tractor

show and plenty of food. The Maytown Comets 4-H Club and the Sub-Let Indians 4-H Club will both have food stands open Saturday and Sunday, and the volunteer fire department will be serving a pancake breakfast at the fire station on Sunday of the show.

Food is also available at local establishments: Rt. 52 Roadhouse, La Fiesta, Local Cup and Cake, Sublette BP, Bonnell's General Store and Sublette Saloon, located three miles northwest of town on Tower Road.



Toy & Tractor Show uses many buildings to house displays

Many buildings around Sublette will be utilized for the Toy Show. They include:

- Sublette Community Building – toys, 4-H food stand
- Ellice Dinges Center – pancake breakfast, toys
- Main Street Repair Building – toys, bake sale
- Jacoby Building – toys
- Sublette Elevator Building – toys, 4-H food stand
- Orzech Auto Truck & Towing LLC – model train
- Craft show items will be located at numerous buildings throughout the show.

It is anticipated that there will be 180 tables of toys and other merchandise utilized at this year's show, up four from 2022.

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Churches welcome all visitors

The local churches welcome visitors to worship during the Toy Show weekend.

Grace Fellowship Church has Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30



a.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church has Mass at 4 p.m. on Saturday and at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. St. Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown has Sunday Mass at 8 a.m.

Toy show funds allows five scholarships

Each year the Sublette Toy Show awards five scholarships using some of the funds generated at the show. One scholarship is awarded to a member of the two local 4-H clubs – the Sub-Let Indians and the Maytown Comets. One scholarship is given to a member of the Amboy FFA Chapter and one scholarship is given to a member of the Mendota FFA Chapter in memory of Dan Tastad, one of the original toy show promoters.

This will be the second year of the Dean Stephenitch Memorial Scholarship in memory of one of the original founders of the Sublette Antique Tractor & Toy Show.

All of the remaining money from the toy show is used for local community projects and charities.



ENJOY THE 2024 TOY SHOW!

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Wednesday, March 6, 2024
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Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



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Sublette houses one of the largest, most attended tractor and toy shows in Midwest

It has been 42 years since the first Sublette Farm Toy Show was hosted in the village.

Several people were discussing the possibility of having a toy show in Sublette. No one was quite sure if it was a good idea as no one had any experience in planning a show.

Finally, Dan Tastad said, "You will never know unless you try it."

That is what set the ball rolling. The group made plans for a one-day show at the community building. When over 600 people attended, it was deemed a success and from there the show has continued to grow. It has spread over eight buildings and another building houses a craft show. Other events that have taken place over the years include a farm

tractor show, a semi-tractor show and an operating train layout.

Visitors usually represent about 15 states. Many attendees travel for many hours to see the tractors and toys. The show has become one of the largest shows in the Midwest.

The show usually has over 150 volunteers helping to make it a huge success.

Sublette's show coincides with National Agriculture Week

Since 1973, the United States has set one week aside, March 17-23, and designated it National Agriculture Week. Ag Week is a celebration to honor the millions of men and women responsible for producing the most abundant, highest quality and most reasonably priced food and fiber in the world.

Since Sublette lies in one of the richest agriculture regions in the Midwest, it is fitting that the Sublette Toy Show is always held during Ag Week.

This year is also the 42nd anniversary of the show, and as usual, is expected to draw people to the tiny community of Sublette from all over the Midwest.

Get your 50/50 tickets!

Take the opportunity to add to your wallet while giving back to the community as the other half is used for community projects

Each year the Sublette Toy Show committee sells 50/50 tickets to help fund local community projects. They are sold by committee members and at local businesses prior to the show. Then on toy show days, tickets are sold at a trailer located at

the corner of Main Street and John Street. The winner of the drawing will receive one-half of the money taken in. Each year the fund reaches a higher level. Be sure to get your tickets so you have a chance at being the big winner.



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Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show



Wednesday, March 6, 2024
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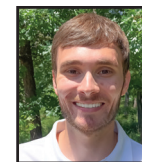
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