

— 25TH ANNUAL —

2021 Tractor Parade

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June 4, 2021
Callicoon, NY
Section C



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Tractor parade gears up for 25th year

BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM

You haven't had the true Callicoon, NY experience until you've witnessed the hamlet's annual tractor parade, which this year hits the quarter of a century mark. The parade's 25th chapter will see some return to normalcy as there was no "official" parade last year because of the pandemic, and instead, it took place virtually.

"I'm so excited that we can have the parade again this year," said Tractor Parade Coordinator Katrina Graby. "It's something that so many people look forward to all year round. I am grateful for the community support and the volunteers that help make this hap-

"It's something that so many people look forward to all year round."

Katrina Graby
Tractor Parade Coordinator

pen. It's such an important fundraiser for the Delaware Youth Center, and I am so glad we get to celebrate the 25th anniversary in person again."

Tractors will line up at the Delaware Youth Center prior to a noon start on Sunday, June 13.

Watching tractors riding by will surely work up an appetite and

luckily for you, for only \$12, you can refuel with a pulled pork BBQ (which takes place from noon until 3 p.m.) prepared by Ugly Smoke Pit BBQ. Meats used were donated by Chaljeri Meats LLC, located in the hamlet. Peck's will once again be donating supplies.

You'll also want a souvenir to remember the special event. T-shirts will be for sale with the parade's logo. Prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth. This year's logo was designed by Hortonville native Katey Dnistrian.

T-shirts & BBQ are available for "pre-reservation" until June 1, so guarantee your shirt and BBQ while supplies last. Go to: [/forms.office.com/r/GEAXJ8GPMp](https://forms.office.com/r/GEAXJ8GPMp).

The event will be following NYS COVID 19 guidelines and organizers ask that you respect those while on the premises.

Each year, the **Sullivan County Democrat** puts this special section together to preview the amazing event.

In the pages of this year's publication, you'll find articles about this year's grand marshal (Ed Sykes), last year's unique parade, the crucial work of the Delaware Youth Center and information about some of the town's attractions, as you can easily make a day out of the Tractor Parade.

Make sure to follow all the rules, and most importantly, sit back, relax and have fun!

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How the tractor parade began – and keeps rolling

BY JEANNE SAGER

white collar fields of enjoyment.

But that's the beauty of the Callicoon Tractor Parade, said organizer Kathy Langley.

The residents of the small river hamlet and the surrounding towns stand shoulder to shoulder, plop on the sidewalk or line up lawnchairs with droves of visitors from New York City and beyond.

They all come for one thing – the tractors.

Or maybe, not.

Maybe it's the simplicity, Langley said.

Maybe it's the memories of days gone by.

Maybe it's just a chance to have some fun.

Ten years in, Langley is pleasant-

ly surprised that an idea that nearly got her laughed off that golf course is still going strong.

Did she think it would?

"Never in a million years," she said with a laugh. "I can still get excited about it . . . but it's a puzzle!"

Langley's story might explain it.

The self-proclaimed city transplant was playing golf with a man who fixes up antique tractors at a time when she was trying to think of some sort of "get people to Callicoon" event.

"A lot of these guys go to these old tractor shows, and that held no interest for me," Langley explained. "So I said, 'What if we have a tractor parade?'"

"Everyone looked at me like, 'This woman is crazy!'"

But Langley pitched the idea to the Callicoon Business Association – and their response, no matter how lukewarm, was "yes."

She's a transplant, she said, and she likes tractors.

Other people must like them too.

It started with just a handful of tractors moseying down the main drag in Callicoon.

Today the parade loops around town from the Delaware Youth Center on Creamery Road, up Main Street, down Audley Dorren Drive, up Bridge Street and back down Main – they have to spread it out to make room for all those tractors . . . as many as 300 show up for the annual event.

It's gotten a mention in the well-known Fodor's travel guide for New York State – "The yearly tractor parade (held the second Sunday in June, rain or shine) epitomizes the flavor of Callicoon: funny and fun-loving, with a reverence for its agricultural history."

And Cookie Magazine, a lifestyle publication for parents, listed the parade under "cool and kooky events" to attend this summer.

It's hard to believe the roots of the Callicoon Tractor Parade are on a golf course.

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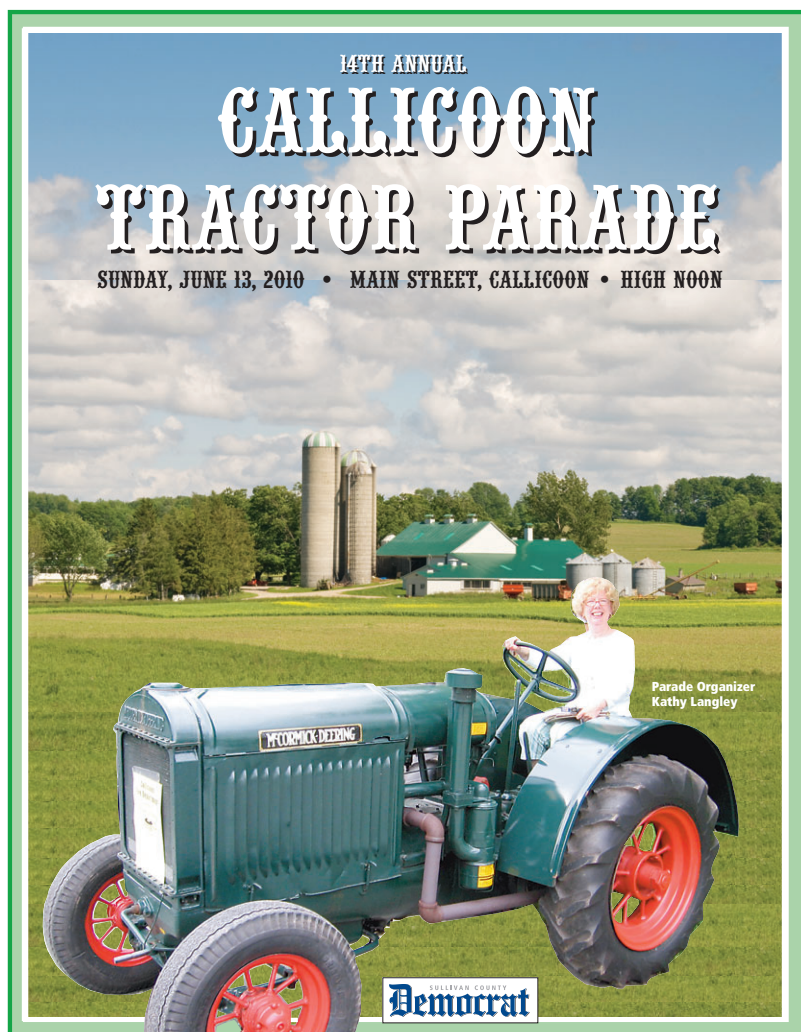
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PLEASE SEE **HISTORY**, PAGE 5C



HISTORY: A great idea takes root

Continued from page 4C

"After dozens of tractors of all sizes, ages, colors, and models parade down Main Street, the community gets together for a barbecue. Early birds can partake in a pre-parade pancake breakfast at the volunteer firehouse."

The listing prompted a call from one Connecticut mom to Langley's office – she was reading Cookie in her dentist's office, and now she has the parade date penciled in on her calendar.

"She's coming – her son adores tractors!" Langley said with a laugh.

There are people who plan their vacations around the tractor parade.

"You'd think maybe after 10 years people would say, 'Oh,'" Lan-

gley said, shaking her head and scrunching up her nose. "But we still catch fire."

Referencing the Cookie and Fodor's mentions, Langley lit up.

"It's things like that after doing it nine times you say, 'Alright, we'll do it again. People like it; we'll do it again.'"

So why do people like it again?

"For people from here, where you feel sadness and experience tragedies...it's a nice way to come together," she said.

It's a way to celebrate the farming heritage of the community, Langley added.

"For people from the city who so want to be part of a community, it's so nice to do that, to stand with their neighbors and say, 'This is my community.'"

"I'm amazed," Langley continued. "The people from the city – they all know, oh, the tractor parade!"

Kathy Langley, left, even made the cover of the 2010 Tractor Parade edition.

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Sykes to be Tractor Parade Grand Marshal

BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM

A familiar face will be leading the 25th Annual Callicoon Tractor Parade. Former Town of Delaware Supervisor and Callicoon Cooperative Insurance Company President Ed Sykes will serve as this year's grand marshal.

Sykes, originally born in Staten Island, is well-known in the area. He is a graduate of Delaware Valley Central School and his family moved to Hankins in 1958 when he was 14 years old. They had a farm in the Town of Tusten

"I like it because it's a place where you can see old buddies, friends and classmates from school. It's always a great weekend and I'm looking forward to it."

that experienced a fire and instead of rebuilding their chicken coop,

they decided to make the move to Hankins and buy the Hankins House.

Fast forward to today and Sykes continues to be very active in his community. He is a member of the County of Sullivan Industrial Development Agency and Catskills Food Hub boards, and is the current Vice Chairman of the Jeff Bank Board of Directors.

While Sykes was unsure if he's attended all 25 parades in the hamlet on the Delaware's history, he says if he didn't, he would have only missed one.



DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

Ed Sykes

"It's so country," Sykes said of the parade, "and it's part of Callicoon. People know us for it and it's gotten into our DNA. I like it because it's a place where you can see old buddies, friends and classmates from school. It's always a great weekend and I'm looking forward to it."

This will be the first time he has ever grand marshaled the annual spectacle. When his grandchildren were active in 4-H, he'd bring a flatbed and they'd decorate it and participate in the parade.

"It's a really nice event," Sykes said. "Other communities have copied the tradition but Callicoon is the original."

Sykes was very complimentary of the Delaware Youth Center, which the parade benefits. In fact, when he moved to the area, the DYC was fairly new.

"It has evolved into the fabric of the community and all the board members and volunteers roll up their sleeves and work for nothing," he said. "I have nothing but praise for them."

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What: 25th Annual Callicoon Tractor Parade

When: Sunday, June 13, at noon

Where: Main St., Callicoon

Why: To celebrate the rich heritage of farming and agriculture in our community

Also on June 13

• Callicoon Farmers Market

Callicoon Creek Park, Dorrer Dr. from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• Pork Barbecue catered by The Ugly Smoker Pit BBQ

Following the parade at the Delaware Youth Center

T-shirts available

\$15 for adults, \$10 for youth, sold in several area locations

On the Cover

Katey Dnistrian designed the 25th Anniversary Callicoon Parade t-shirt

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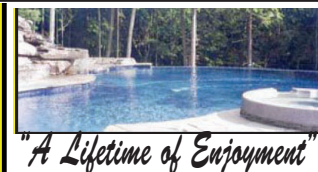


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PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA MACE

DYC Gets Ready for Summer

BY JEANNE SAGER

Drive by the Delaware Youth Center in Callicoon and you might notice things look a little different around the place.

But it's only when you step inside Grover Hermann Hall or the non-profit's brand-new poolhouse that you see the scope of the work that's been going on down on Creamery Road.

According to DYC Board Member Christina Mace, projects began before the pandemic when an anonymous organization came forward with an offer of renovation funding. But there was a catch: The work had to be done within a set amount of time or the non-profit would have to pay back every dime.

That all seemed fine in 2019.

It wasn't until the pandemic hit, construction had to be limited or

stopped entirely (at times) and construction prices skyrocketed that things became complicated.

Still, the Youth Center board persevered. In addition to the renovation funding with the sunset date, there was another anonymous donation earmarked for repairs plus donations that have been made by various generous local folks over the years that were pooled together to create what's

taking shape in Callicoon today.

Grover Hermann Hall has had its kitchen renovated, and brand-new bathrooms installed to enhance the experience for the many organizations, families, and couples who rent the building throughout the year for events.

The poolhouse has been expanded with the addition of both in and outdoor showers, new gender neutral bathrooms and changing

Volunteers help spread wood chips donated by Hofer Log and Lumber around the Delaware Youth Center playground to get it ready to open.



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rooms, a patio for families to sit, cool off, and enjoy frozen treats, and even an indoor classroom. The latter will be cheered by the many parents whose children enjoy swimming lessons at the facility in the summers as it will ensure there's still class to be had even when it rains!

The pool installed in the 1940s remains untouched as funding was not enough to cover the significant dollar amount required to replace the structure entirely, but donations earmarked over the years to update the structure remain as well and the Youth Center Board will continue to raise funds for its eventual replacement.

There's been additional sprucing up around the grounds with some 40 dangerous trees removed for safety plus the old, rotting timber around the playground equipment removed and replaced.

Already the playground has reopened for the Youth Center's membership, and the hall began accepting its first rentals this month.

Pool opening remains in flux due to COVID regulations, Mace said, but the volunteer board at the Youth Center looks forward to once again hearing the children of the Callicoon area splashing around in the water.



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2020 Callicoon Tractor Parade



Mark Murphy brought his antique tractor down Main St., Callicoon last year to pick up his barbecue dinners.



George Olsen followed his grandfather Russell down Audley Dorrer Drive during last year's parade.

2020 was a missed brigade of farmers – the warts – the s. On Sunday, with the fan up Main Str. There were crowds, no directing tra. But there would be di that farmers when it hon. The barbecue year and thi. It's a traditi.



Cindy Menges, left, a volunteer at the Delaware Youth Center, helped lead a host of volunteers in supplying patrons with pulled pork barbecues and Tractor Parade t-shirts. Master chef Wayne Hubbert takes a moment to relax, as his hard work is nearly complete.



Shandee farmer Russell Olsen has missed too many Callicoon Tractor Parades to stop him from bringing his tractor to town.

e was an impromptu affair

Story and Photos by Fred Stabbert III

2020 was certainly a year of unpredictable stature. Most the year will be remembered for what we missed rather than what we did – but for a small group of farmers, friends and Callicoon Parade stalwarts, the show must go on!

On Sunday, June 14, 2020 nearly a dozen tractors – many the familiar green bodies and yellow wheels – pulled down Main Street and put on their own “Virtual Parade.” There were no chairs lining the roadway, no cheering, no announcer and no Sullivan County Sheriff’s managing traffic.

There was a parade, filled with the hope that next year will be different and determined to let everyone know that farmers don’t like to break tradition – especially when it honors them.

The barbecue and Parade t-shirt sale were a success last year and this year promises to be even better. In addition we all look forward to sharing.



It was a sunny day last June 14 and Adam Kays and Kate Papa took advantage of the nice weather to make their own Tractor Parade.



My Callicoon Tractor Parades and he wasn't going to let last year's pandemic



Mike Feigenbutz gives the two thumbs up while driving past The Raleigh.



DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO BY NYSSA CALKIN

In June, 2017, Callicoon was named the #1 Small Town by Country Living magazine – and with good reason. There are shops, more than a dozen great restaurants, a movie theater and plenty of friendly folks to meet almost any day of the week in the 152-year-old hamlet. Come see for yourself.

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BY ISABEL BRAVERMAN

The Callicoon Tractor Parade is a time-honored tradition and while the tractors roll down Main Street and head on home there is still much to do in the small yet bustling hamlet.

Wander down lower and upper

Main Streets and you'll find a host of shopping, dining and recreational experiences.

Or you can explore Audley Dorner Drive, and find even more hidden gems in the historic hamlet.

If you're looking for a bite to eat there are many restaurants in town with a variety of offerings.

Grab a coffee and a sweet snack at The Kitchen Table Café, or sit down for a nice meal at Peppino's, Callicoon Caffè, or The Raleigh.

There are plenty of places to get a drink too. The Callicoon Brewing Co. and Rafter's Tavern have a full bar with yummy bites to eat and oftentimes have live music.

Catskill Provisions Distillery is a New York State Farm distillery with a tasting room and spirits for sale. The Western Supper Club and Inn's 1800's bar and lounge offers a modern menu and craft beverages.

Please see **CALICOON**, page 16C

Matthew J. Freda



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CALLICOON: Something for everyone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15C

The Callicoon Wine Merchant serves wine by the glass and tapas with an attached wine shop.

Just around the corner from Main Street are two more options: Ollie Grey's is an ice cream stand serving high-quality fast food, and Local Pizza offers a modern take-out atmosphere with pizza, tacos and noodle bowls.

After all that food you might want to walk it off and burn some calories by shopping (I heard it's great for cardio).

Check out clothing stores The Clothesline, Daryl K Boutique, PAO Shop and Studio, Pip-Squeak Chapeau, or for vintage clothing lovers you must stop by La Garconne Boutique and Ragtime Clothing Exchange.

With your new fashion finds head on over to home décor and specialty item shops like Litt Home & Book and Spruce Home Goods.

The Callicoon Pantry is a low-waste grocery with pantry staples, home and body care and local goods.

In addition to all the wonderful dining and eating establishments, Callicoon has a lot more to offer.

On Sundays, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., there is one of the best Farmers Markets in the county on Audley Dorner Drive. It's fresh, in season and boasts nearly 30 vendors. Check it out.

Take a walk down to Callicoon Creek Park and enjoy the views of the Delaware River while you lounge on the lawn or bring a picnic.

Pick up your groceries and essentials at Peck's Market and check out the library.

There's also an historic movie theater on Upper Main Street playing current, alternative and foreign films. Book a massage at River Family Wellness.

There really is so much to do in Callicoon, whether you're visiting for the day or staying for a while. Located on the banks of the Delaware River, the natural beauty surrounds the charming hamlet so you can take in the scenery while enjoying a day filled with activity.

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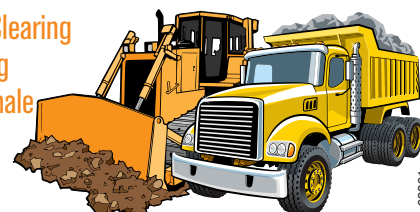
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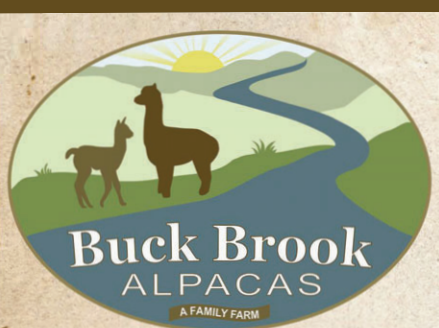
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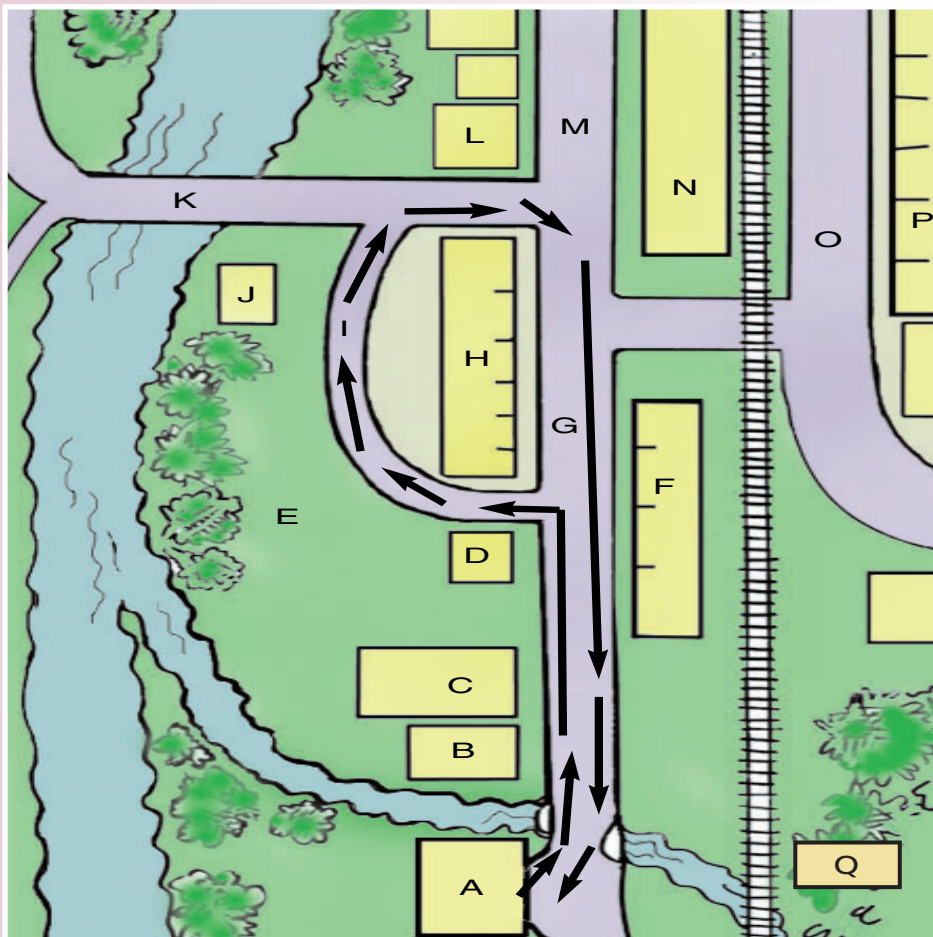
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Callicoon & the Parade Route

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A Delaware Community Center | I Audley Dorner Drive |
| B The Sullivan County Democrat office | J Callicoon Caffe |
| C Peck's Supermarket | K Bridge to Pennsylvania |
| D Laundromat | L Wayne Bank |
| E Callicoon Creek Park | M River Road |
| F Lower Main Street Businesses | N Train Depot |
| G Lower Main Street | O Upper Main Street |
| H Lower Main Street Businesses | P Upper Main |
| | Q Ollie Greys |

The parade route remains the same as it was in previous years.

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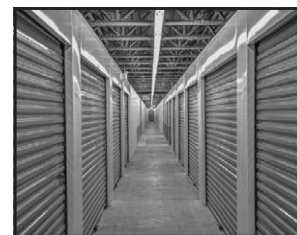
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(845) 932-8232 fax

Frank and Kasey Kratz, Owners

cochectonselfstorage@yahoo.com



ENJOY THE PARADE!



Check us out at the Callicoon Farm Market! Every Sunday!

Note to Tractors

There is no fee to enter the parade, but the NYC appreciates any donation big or small that you can make to help offset the cost of putting this wonderful event on.

Couple important notes:

- NO parking at AGWAY please.
- You should arrive at the NYC early to drop off your tractor.
- Trailers and other vehicles will be directed elsewhere in town to park.
- If you are only bringing your tractor, you can enter the line up at the NYC and just drive the tractor in the parade when it starts.
- Volunteers will be on hand along the route to assist. We appreciate your full cooperation in abiding by their directions.
- Please, NO children on laps or fenders. This is just too dangerous.
- NO alcohol, and absolutely no drinking and driving. Police will be on hand to patrol, so be smart and be careful!
- NO pulling tractors – you will be asked to prove the tractor can run and that the brakes work.
- NO political signs or advertisements. The parade is for fun and not for political or commercial gain.
- And most importantly, HAVE FUN!



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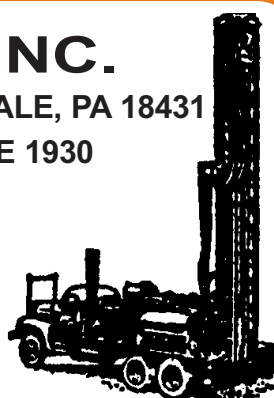
While participating in the Tractor Parade is a lot of fun, with big crowds and plenty of excitement, drivers must also pay attention to the road, as 250 tractors in the "line of march" is a lot to keep track of. Here a driver keeps his eyes on the road.

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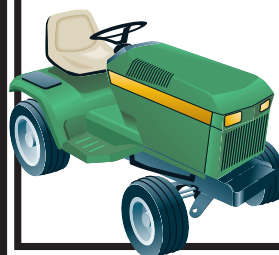


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