

**For Immediate Release:** 24<sup>th</sup> St. Charles Scarecrow Festival Oct. 9-11, 2009

**TOPIC:** Scarecrow Contest

**NOTE:** This release is suitable for Family, Neighbor or Business Sections.

**Submitted by:** St. Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau  
311 N. Second St. St. Charles, IL 60174

**Contact:** Kathy Loubsky, Scarecrow Festival Coordinator  
kathy@visitscharles [www.scarecrowfest.com](http://www.scarecrowfest.com) info@scarecrowfest.com

**Calling for creative entries.**

Summer is drawing to a close and autumn is on its way - which means that the 24th annual St. Charles Scarecrow Festival, Oct. 9-11, is just around the corner.

According to Kathy Loubsky, Associate Director of the St. Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau and Festival Coordinator, is putting out the call to creative minds that NOW is the time to think about the festival's mainstay activity - the Scarecrow Contest held each year in Lincoln Park.

Since 1985, the heart of the famous autumn celebration has been the Scarecrow Contest. What started out as a display of just a dozen has now turned into a delightful display of more than one hundred scarecrows created by area residents, clubs and businesses.

**What exactly is the Scarecrow Contest?**

The contest is an opportunity for everyone to tap into his or her artistic and imaginative resources while, at the same time, to have fun creating a scarecrow in one of seven categories. The resulting Scarecrows range from small to tall, traditional to wildly outrageous to the delight of thousands of festival attendees who each year flock to Lincoln Park to enjoy them!

The contest is absolutely free and open to all: individuals, families, organizations, school groups and businesses -- both in St. Charles and out: retail shops, restaurants, service companies and corporations. There are seven distinct categories to chose from.

**PAGE TWO**

**The Categories...** Seven distinct divisions provide for a wealth of creativity

**NEW! City of St. Charles 175th Anniversary :** This entry must reflect a 175th Anniversary theme.

**Traditional:** Creation must closely resemble the residents of farmers' fields and gardeners' vegetable plots of years past. Straw, burlap, flannel shirts, a wood frame and a bit of "whimsy" are all that's needed.

**Whimsical:** lots of leeway for expression. Nearly anything goes in this division -- as long as it's in good taste.

**Mechanical:** Entry can move, shake, talk, twirl, illuminate and be automated - and ALL entries must use electrical power, provided free by the festival.

**Children's:** kids only, ages 12 or younger. Anything goes in this category to encourage creativity and design, parental participation MUST be minimal.

**St. Charles Business & Area Business Categories:** Open to all "for-profits" businesses to promote a product, service, restaurant or shop to thousands of festival guests. Anything goes, but please, no hand-out materials from the scarecrow display.

Each entry is given a categorized sign and voting number upon check-in, which takes place Wednesday, Oct. 7th or Thursday, Oct. 8th, at the Lincoln Park Information Booth. All scarecrow entries must be named for identification purposes.

Winners are chosen by popular vote of festival attendees. Cash prizes for the top vote-getters in the Children's, Traditional, Whimsical, 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Mechanical. The top vote earner in the St. Charles & Area Business division receive a free newspaper ad.

Call the St. Charles Visitors Bureau at (630) 377-6161 or go online at [www.scarecrowfest.com/contest](http://www.scarecrowfest.com/contest) to download and complete an entry form. Fax or mail the completed form to (630) 513-0566 or drop it off at the visitor bureau offices, 311 N. Second St., St. Charles, IL 60174.

XXXXXXXXXX

