

Media Release
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October 9-11, 2009 - The 24th St. Charles Scarecrow Festival

Downtown St. Charles, Illinois 800-777-4373 www.scarecrowfest.com

Festival Hours: Fri & Sat. 9am-10pm, Sun. 10-6;

Autumn on the Fox Art & Craft Show Hours: Fri & Sat 9am-5pm and Sun 9am-4pm;

Each fall, St. Charles becomes a wonderful world of whimsy, fantasy and creativity as scarecrows invade every area of the downtown for the Scarecrow Festival! The St. Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau proudly produces the event and welcomes guests to charming St. Charles along the Fox River.

View and Vote for your favorite!

Over 100 whimsical hand-crafted Scarecrows are on display in downtown St. Charles' Lincoln Park. Visitors can view and vote for their favorite scarecrow in each of seven distinct contest categories! St. Charles & area businesses, Traditional, Whimsical, Children's, City of St. Charles' 175th Anniversary and the Mechanical Category where scarecrows move, twirl & shake! Ballots are available at the Lincoln Park Information Booth. Winners will be announced on Sunday, at 5pm, in the Main Tent.

Crafts Galore & more at Pottawatomie Park!

Shop the **Autumn on the Fox Arts and Craft Show**, located in Pottawatomie Park along the east bank of the Fox River, featuring 150 juried crafters with outstanding homemade items, including a wide selection of Autumn & Holiday décor. Nearby River View Miniature Golf Course, Paddlewheel Riverboats, kayak & canoe rentals from Geneva Kayak Center offer great recreational options.

Non-stop entertainment, with a local flair!

Free live entertainment all weekend long, including Friday's, "**Bright Stars on Stage**", and a new addition "**Stars at Night**" showcases local talented youth featuring a wide variety of performing arts. Weekend entertainment includes everything from rock 'n roll to country classics. The popular Blooze Brothers will bring a bright ending to the festival on Sunday with their antics, dance and great music.

Festival Fun!

Festival activities also include a carnival, petting zoo, storytelling, scarecrow making, face painting, sand art, "outdoor" shopping market, commercial row, moon jump inflatables, and great food.

Check out the new wheels!

Fox Valley Volkswagen & Al Piemonte Chrysler will have their hottest and latest autos on display.

Lots of FREE events!

Along with non-stop entertainment, free events include the Da Vinci Academy's "Play Tables" filled with material to stir a child's imagination, Costco's Coloring Tent and a Model Railroad Exhibit, where kids can earn an engineering certificate.

The Storytelling Tales & Craft Tent has stories on the hour from 11-3 and free crafts from 10-5.

Sponsored by Learning Express Toys & Le Tip of Geneva, who also coordinate the event.

A red furry friend named Elmo will be stopping by the tent each day to say hi to the kids.

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More free events -

“Make Your Own Scarecrow” to take home, is held Sat & Sun from 10-4. Sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. All supplies are provided, but families are encouraged to bring shirts and pants, as the event is so popular, supplies (furnished by the St. Charles Mothers Club) often run out! One scarecrow per family please. Boy Scout Troop 60 is there to assist and donations are welcome.

The **Meijer Kids Zone**, on Saturday from Noon – 3pm, hosts live entertainment, free face painting and a dozen make it & take it crafts, organized by the Mothers of Twins & Triplets.

Lots of surprises await . . . watch for strolling costumed characters and our friendly scarecrow on stilts. Stop by the Sponsor Booths for a variety of free activities and give-a-ways.

Fun on the Fox!

The Fox River is a cherished charm of St. Charles. Step back in time to the Mark Twain era and enjoy a Paddlewheel Riverboats ride on the St. Charles Belle or the Fox River Queen. No reservations necessary. Public launches: Friday at 3:30, Saturday & Sunday on the hour from 1pm-5pm. \$

New this year!

- **Can you canoe & kayak too?** Experience the thrill of paddling the Fox while “soaking in” the fall colors. The **“Scarecrow Paddle” on the Fox River** presented by the Geneva Kayak Center, held Sat & Sun from 10am-5pm, offers canoe & kayak rentals, tours and free demonstrations. Located in Pottawatomie Park. Reservations made on-site. \$
- Visit the free **Discover Museum of Rockford’s “Outreach to Space”** exhibit. Twelve hands-on activities are small in size but big on interactive science learning. Kids can build space colonies, try their hands as an astronaut, launch a rocket, and observe the stars.
- Visit Lincoln Park’s free **“Scarecrow Character Corner”** - *Grab your camera for a great photo opportunity!* Become a scarecrow when you poke your face in a whimsical character board or sit next to a stuffed Scarecrow! Our youngest friends can skip thru the **Norton Farm Fall “Straw Maze.”**

Travel by Trolley!

Colorful trolleys transport visitors from festival locations on the east and west side of the Fox River. This year guides provided by the St. Charles Free Methodist Church will be on board to provide festival information and history tidbits along the route.

Thanks to our Sponsors for making all the weekend fun possible! For Scarecrow Special retail & sponsor coupons . . . visit our website or the Info Booths at the festival.

So much to see and do . . . make it a weekend! To receive a festival schedule, Scarecrow Special coupons, hotel rates & packages contact the St. Charles Visitors Bureau at 800-777-4373 or go on-line to www.scarecrowfest.com.

Photos available upon request.