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of Eldersburg & Sykesville

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Issue date:

Piney Run Park hosting Apple Festival

Laura Petersen 26.SEP.07

The start of autumn marks the beginning of craft shows and harvest festivals across the county. Piney Run Park will host the 21st annual Apple Festival on Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Festival coordinator Kelly Vogelpohl said she anticipates more than 2,000 people will attend the festival. New events including the opportunity to take a dog sled ride.

"This year, we are excited to have the Maryland Dog Sled Adventure demonstrating and offering dog sled rides," Vogelpohl said.

Unlike a traditional dog sled ride, participants will be pulled around on a cart with wheels instead of a sled. Vogelpohl said the dogs train in the off season by pulling wheeled carts.

Also new to the festival is an apple-shaped maze, which event coordinators mowed from a tall bed of wildflowers.

"We'll see how it goes," Vogelpohl said with a laugh. "If you are a really tall person, you will probably be able to see the entire maze."

Events and performances held in previous years will return to the festival this year, Vogelpohl said.

The Rock Candy Cloggers will perform at 12:45 p.m., and Martin Family String Band will play music throughout the day.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to paint pumpkins, make scarecrows and take wagon rides. Tickets are required for most activities and will be on sale.

A variety of food will be available for purchase including bratwurst, baked goods, apple fritters, apple cider and the festival's signature apple dumplings.

"We typically go through 17 bushels of golden delicious apples and 8 bushels of cider apples," Vogelpohl said.

The festival is free, but regular park entrance fees apply. The majority of the money collected will fund the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council, and the remaining funds will go to the Carroll County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Vogelpohl said she anticipates the festival will earn \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the council.

Vogelpohl, a naturalist at the nature center, is now in her third year of coordinating the festival. Planning begins almost one year prior to the festival, Vogelpohl said.

Booking the entertainment and vendors and recruiting volunteers are among some of the first things Vogelpohl does to prepare for the event.

The wooded location of the festival is enjoyable for attendees, Vogelpohl said.

"The vendors are all in the woods, and it overlooks the lake," Vogelpohl explained. "It is so beautiful and such a great community event. It is great for the whole family."



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Birds of prey from the nature center will be on display, and naturalists from the center will be on site to answer any questions.

Members of the Westminster Astronomical Society will answer questions and set up a telescope for attendees to view the stars and the sun.

Vogelpohl said the festival offers a little something for everyone.

"I am really looking forward to a beautiful day and seeing lots of families celebrating the change of the season and preparing for the harvest," Vogelpohl said.

Laura Petersen can be reached at 410-857-3317 or laura.petersen@eldersburgadvocate.com.

If you go

What: 21st Annual Apple Festival

Where: Piney Run Park, 30 Martz Road, Sykesville

When: Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: \$5/vehicle for Carroll County residents, \$8/vehicle for out-of-county residents. Some of the activities also require tickets.

- Advocate Staff Writer

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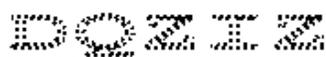
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