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Dallas Days returns with favorites, new activities

The annual Dallas Days festival has so much going on, it's amazing the organizers were able to fit so much to do in the first two days.

The first day alone, there's something new happening on the hour, every hour. The streets open up at 11 a.m. when nearly 100 vendors offer up their wares, from vegan baked goods to home baked dog treats and collectibles from 3d printing to rocks and crystals and stained glass.

The new day continues with nearly all new events, including a decorate your own bike contest for all ages at noon, sound bowl demonstration at 2 p.m. and a best beard contest at 3 p.m., to name a few.

Be sure to head indoors to the Dallas Event Center to check out the creative minds who signed up for the Young Entrepreneurs Market at 4 p.m.

Head over to the fire station to get cooled off during the Waterball Tournament. Then cap your evening off with a movie at Gather Food Park at the end of Main Street or catch live music by SPRY downtown.

Then, be sure to return for day two where the non-stop activities don't stop. Be sure to catch the returning favorite attractions grand parade at 11 a.m., cornhole tournament at 2 p.m. and pie eating contest at 4 p.m. Then don't miss new activities like the miniature golf course at 12:30 p.m. and performances throughout the day at the Courthouse Stage or the Main Stage debut of The Roundhouse Band.

Organizers for this year's Dallas Days are predicting visitors will be as thrilled as they are.

"We are very excited. We worked hard to make this year a lot better," they said at a group meeting. "A lot of sponsorships are supporting us from around town. We really want to thank our sponsors. Without them it wouldn't have happened."

Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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Don't miss day three of Dallas Days at City Park

After the downtown streets of Dallas Days have cleared away at the end of Saturday night, be sure to return on Sunday to catch continuing activities in City Park from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Activities kick off when the Dallas Rotary hosts their annual Breakfast in the Park from 7-11 a.m. near the Japanese Garden. A full meal of eggs, sausage and pancakes is just $11 for adults, $6 for kids or $30 for a family pack.

Then stroll on over to the where the Dallas Art Association is hosting more than 50 vendors offering amazing hand-crafted wares. Take a break from the grind and sit in to listen to live performances throughout the day from four local artists. Bring the kids as there will be a free craft booth to make their own take-own souvenir.

Finally, stroll down memory lane filled with classic hotrods and eye catching builds at the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce's Sunday in the Park Car Show, from 8-2 p.m. Judges will be choosing their favorites with awards presented at 1 p.m.




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Dallas Days

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ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



FRIDAY, JULY 24

11 AM - 7 PM
Vendor Booths

11:30 AM - 9 PM
Tapper Tournament
Galaxy Won

12 PM
Stars, Stripes & Bikes Contest
Courthouse Lawn

1 PM
Line Dance Lesson with Holly Williamson
Main Street Stage

2PM
Sound Bowl Demonstration
Courthouse Lawn

3 PM
Beard Contest Mike from Good Guy Barber
Main Street Stage

4 - 8 PM
Young Entrepreneur Market
Dallas Event Center

5 PM
Tim Isaac
Main Street Stage

6 PM
Dallas Fire Dept. Waterball
Fire Station Area

6 - 8 PM
SPRY
Main Stage @ Mill & Main

9:30 PM
Movie
Gather Food Park

SATURDAY, JULY 25

9 AM - 2 PM
Rock Paining Arts Association
Outside Marlene's

10 AM
Pre-Parade Activities including sidewalk chalk

11 AM - 7 PM
Vendor Booths

11 AM - 12:30 PM
Parade

12 - 9 PM
Galaga Tournament
Galaxy Won

12:30 - 5:30 PM
Miniature Golf by Cascadia Putting Club

12:30 PM
Roundhouse Band
Main Street Stage

2 PM
ATA Martial Arts Performance by WolfPack ATA Martial Arts
Main Street

2 - 4 PM
Cornhole Tournament hosted by Rob Anderson with NW Cornhole
By the Library

3 PM
Starr Studios Performance Salem School of Dance
Courthouse Lawn

4 PM
Strive Athletics Performance

4 PM
Pie Eating Contest
New Morning Bakery

6 - 8 PM
Beef Chicken
Main Stage @ Mill & Main


Dallas Days
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Stars, Stripes & Birthday Lights!
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24
25
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A parade passes through



A centerpiece to Dallas Days is the parade, which runs this year from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The route starts at Washington Street and travels north along Jefferson Street. The parade then u-turns just before Sgt. Ian Tawney Memorial Park and heads back south down Main Street, before dispersing at the starting line on Washington Street.

Set up this year by Dallas Downtown Association, organizers expect to have around 70 entries based on past years. The DDA this year received a grant from The Oregon Historical Society as part of their America250 grant that is going to help fund some fun enhancements.

There will be pre-parade activities starting at 10 a.m. with sidewalk chalk, balloon animals, and on the Courthouse Stage will be a pre-parade flute and drum performance by Robin Gentlewolf and Lori Little Wolf.

Stick around after the parade, as The Roundhouse Band takes the Courthouse stage, performing bluegrass favorites starting at 12:30 p.m.

Speaking of favorites, some popular entries in the parade itself include Ixtapa restaurant who will be bringing 20 horses and a truck with a trailer holding a band performing live music. Galaxy Won, who set the bar in creativity last year, describes their entry this year as "plenty of stars, lots of stripes – maybe a surprise that comes from the skies." Karma Coffee Bar and Bakery, always an above and beyond float, plans some glittery fireworks decor and flags. Also, be sure to spot the pipes and drums group, Chemeketa Polk Center, Cascade Home Center, First American Title, and some classic cars from local meetup groups. And new to the parade this year, bulldogs are joining the procession.

The DDA gives out awards to popular parade participants. They added two new award categories: most creative and most original.

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Fire department authorizes water fight during Dallas Days

One of the longest-running attractions during Dallas Days in the Waterball Tournament, hosted by Dallas Fire & EMS.

Phil Unger, a retired fire fighter chief apparatus operator, recalls the event started back in the 1960s under Fire Chief Jack Stein.

"He was really big on department professionalism. He was serious about drilling and prepping for fire and rescues," Unger explained. "Jack Stein built a strong foundation of volunteers, while also communicating with the community, explaining why we did the things we do."

Stein came up with the waterball tournament as a way to show the community how they use hoses yet have fun doing it.

The original waterball course was set up on Church Street by the old Armory Building. It has since moved to Court Street where the fire station was built.

They strung a line about the length of the open firehouse bay doors about 10-feet off the ground and tethered a ball (likely a volleyball) in the middle. Then two teams of firefighters simply sprayed water from hoses at the ball until it crossed their opponent's back line.

"Back in those days, I'm guessing they didn't have the internet, chief sent a memo to Sheridan Fire, Monmouth Fire Department, Independence (Polk Fire District now), Rickreall (from SW Polk) and Fall City," Unger said.

Outside agencies soon joined in on the competition over the years, such as rangers from the Oregon Department of Forestry.









Unger said the competition became a Summerfest, now Dallas Days, crowd favorite as they got misted if not outright sprayed on the hot summer days.

The competition has had cash prizes, which Unger said at least half was donated one year to the Dallas Food Bank.

The Dallas fire department is the back-to-back defending champion. He expects them to do well again, as his son, Carson, is an engineer for Dallas and will be competing for the home team.

"It's a great way for them to show off how hard they work while still having fun," he said.

The competition kicks off at 6 p.m. at 915 Shelton St. (the bay doors to the fire station are actually on Court Street).

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Check out the many vendors and shows during the event.





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