

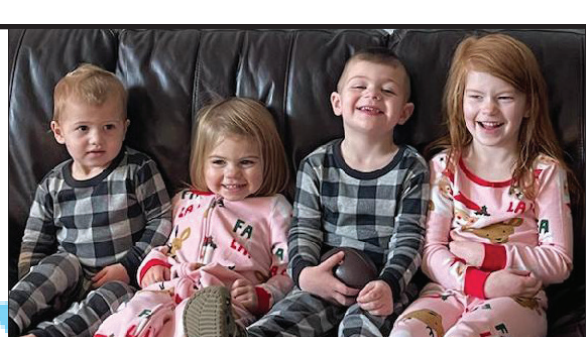
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SWEET CORN**

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Sept. 5 to 7
at West Park in Darien

64th Annual **Darien**
CORN Fest
2025





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64th Annual Darien Corn Fest three days of fun

The annual Corn Fest event will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 5 to 7 at Darien West Park, which is at 335 W. Madison St. (near the intersection of Highway 14 and North Road.)

Corn Fest, which is now in its 64th year, features family-friendly activities throughout its three-day run with live music, children’s activities, a parade, fireworks and a carnival. The festival also offers sports tournaments in softball, horseshoes, cornhole and volleyball.

The annual celebration of all things corn has free all-you-can-eat sweet corn, donated by Birds Eye Foods, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Corn Fest breakfast will be offered both Saturday (7:30 to 10 a.m.) and Sunday (8 to 10:30 a.m.)

Other highlights include the Mini-Rod Tractor Pull at noon on Saturday and the Big Corn Shell-Out at 3 p.m. Sunday, followed by the annual raffle drawing at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.)

Corn Fest swag will be available at the event for purchase including t-shirts for \$25, sweatshirts for \$45 and can koozies for \$4.

New event this year

Get ready to rumble with history at the Antique Tractor Pull & Farm Stock Pull – new this year!

Join the WeakEnd Antique Pullers, a crew of vintage-tractor enthusiasts who bring the roar of the past back to life every pulling event in northern Illinois. Whether you’re a seasoned puller or just tractor-curious, our events are all about horsepower, heritage, and good old-fashioned fun. Why guests will love it:

- Pull with beautifully restored antique tractors – no souped-up motors here; just pure nostalgia under steam and steel.

- Be part of a friendly, tight-knit community that shares tips, tales, and a passion for classic farming iron.

- Experience family-friendly events full of tractor line-ups, cheering spectators, and that unmistakable tractor-pull excitement.

All are welcome! Whether you’re coming to compete, spectate, or just sway to diesel beats, come fuel your weekend with the best antique pullers in the region, organizers said.

Tri-County Pullers

If you think a tractor pull is still about old green and orange tractors pulling a wagon full of hay, you are



in for a big surprise, according to organizers.

“It’s clearly time for some ear-rattlin’, ground-pounding excitement and the Tri-Couty Pullers fire up their massive engines and put the pedal down on the big dirt track. If you’ve never been to an event like this, now is the time to check out the Big Guys of mid-western puller circuit. You won’t be disappointed. And bring some ear protection, you’re gonna need it,” they said.

“Tri-County Pullers Inc. brings some of the loudest and fastest-paced mini-rod tractor pulling in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Creating exciting entertainment for all ages for the last 30 years, the Tri-County Pullers, Inc., is a family-based organization pulling at fairs and festivals with the finest built tractors in the nation. We support your local Lions clubs and Fire and EMS organizations,” the Tri-County website states.

For scheduling or more

information, contact Jon Strandlie at 608-225-0151.

Community Market

Saturday and Sunday of Corn Fest will again feature a community market with makers, bakers, crafters, producers, growers, non-profits and other small businesses – it’s a 60-plus year tradition!

Market hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday however, vendors have the option to sell earlier and later and those attending both days have the option to set-up and sell Friday night as well.

Tournaments, contests

Every year, Corn Fest hosts a big softball tournament. Prizes are awarded for the top placing teams. Softball games are played Friday and Saturday, with an additional co-ed tournament being played on Sunday.

Other tournaments held during the weekend include volleyball, horseshoes and corn hole (bags.)

See the tournament section of this publication for details including contacts for each of the sports.

Parade

The Corn Fest Parade is the premier event of the weekend. People come from miles around to see the great parade. Floats and bands and tractors and horses and much more. Load the family into the car, and do not forget to bring some folding lawn chairs as you won’t want to miss a minute of the parade.

It will begin with the Liberty Bike Ride at 11:15 a.m. It features a group of military veterans on motorcycles giving tribute to our current and lost military men and women. If you are a veteran and would like to ride your motorcycle (all kinds are welcome) in the Liberty Bike Ride, please contact Jane Stiles at 262-374-1539.

Important times for the main parade:

- 10 a.m. lineup begins
- 11 a.m. judging starts – you must be in your spot
- Noon parade begins

The parade route is approximately 3/4 of a mile, starting from the intersection of County X and 3rd Street and ending at the festival grounds. There will be two announcer stands: one across the street from Farmer’s Inn and one at the grounds in front of the Village Garage.

Parade lineups and maps will be sent via email the week of the event. Entries are due by Sept. 2 however, late entries may be accommodated, please contact Jane to inquire.

Many of the streets near the parade route will be blocked off or one-way due to lineup and preparations. Suggested drop-off is at the N. Wisconsin St. (Old 89) intersection closest to your lineup spot. Some parking is available on Market Street near the Ice Cream Shoppe and Legion Hall. Limited parking will be available on First and Second streets.

For more information, contact Jane Stiles at

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The parade held during Darien Corn Fest is one not to be missed. Members of the Delavan-Darien High School Marching Band (shown in a recent area parade) and emergency vehicles from throughout the area are among the many participants who will make their way through downtown Darien Sunday, Sept. 7, entertaining people along the parade route.

PHOTO COURTESY ROCKY TROY
Darien Corn Fest 2025

2025 DARIEN CORN FEST

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Sept. 5-7
Darien West Park

Featuring free sweet corn Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (courtesy of Birds Eye Foods)

Friday – softball tournament, fireworks, corn hole, carnival rides, live music by Stiff Kitty

Saturday – Corn Fest breakfast, softball tournament, bingo, carnival rides, volleyball tournament, Darien Woman's Club and their caramel apple delights, corn hole tournament, horseshoe tournament, community market, mini-rod tractor pull and live music by D'Lite Duo and Sons of Sconnie

Sunday – Corn Fest breakfast, co-ed softball tournament, Antique Tractor Pull & Farm Stock Pull, bingo, carnival rides, Darien Woman's Club and their caramel apple delights, horseshoe tournament, liberty bike ride, huge parade (in downtown Darien), The Big Corn Shell-out and the raffle drawing

**Carnival \$30
wristband specials**

– Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.;
Saturday, noon to 4
p.m. and Saturday, 5 to
9 p.m.

jstiles@darienvillagewi.gov
or call/text (262) 374-1539.

Carnival

The carnival is open all three days of the event with wristband specials at a cost of \$30 at the following times: 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and 5 to 9 p.m. also on Saturday.

Live music

Headlining on the Miller Lite Stage are Stiff Kitty, 7 to 11 p.m., Friday, Sept. 5; D'Lite Duo, noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6; Sons of Sconnie, 7 to 11 p.m., also on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Fireworks

OOOHHHs and
AAAHHHs of delight will
follow the thunderous and
spectacular kickoff fireworks,
Friday, Sept. 5 for the 64th
Annual Darien Corn Fest.

With unconcealed enjoyment and it's free, the display is artistically orchestrated by J & M Displays, organizers said.

This year the sky will burst with a multitude of colors of all kinds. Darien community leaders, businesses and individuals freely contribute and participate with generous help and contributions.

The big show begins Friday night at sundown. In event of rain, fireworks will move to Saturday, Sept 6.

"The entire Corn Fest Committee of volunteers invites everyone to attend one of the best fireworks shows of the season," they said.

Schedule of events

Friday, Sept. 5

- Carnival rides, 6-10 p.m.
- Stiff Kitty on the Miller Lite Stage, 7 -11p.m.
- Softball tournament
- Fireworks, 9 p.m. (in the event of rain on Friday, fireworks will be moved to Saturday)
- Corn hole

Saturday, Sept. 6

- Corn Fest breakfast, 7:30-10 a.m.
- Softball tournament
- Bingo, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Carnival rides
- Volleyball tournament
- Darien Woman's Club Carmel Apple Delights, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Corn Hole tournament, 11 a.m.
- Horseshoe tournament, 11 a.m.
- D'Lite Duo on the Miller Lite Stage, noon-3 p.m.
- Mini-Rod Tractor Pull, noon
- Sons of Scennie on the Miller Lite Stage, 7-11 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 8

- Corn Fest breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m.
- Co-ed softball tournament, 9 a.m.
- Antique Tractor Pull & Farm Stock Pull, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, 10a.m.-3p.m.
- Carnival rides
- Corn Hole tournament, 11 a.m.
- Horseshoe tournament, 11 a.m.
- Darien Woman's Club Carmel Apple Delights, 11a.m.-5p.m.
- Liberty Bike Ride, 11:15 a.m.
- Parade in downtown Darien, noon
- The Big Corn Shell-out, 3 p.m.
- Raffle drawing (\$1 each or six tickets for \$5), 4 p.m.

For more information about Darien Corn Fest, go to www.darienCornFest.us or like and follow the event's Facebook page.



Entertainment

Corn Fest has live music on the Miller Light Stage Friday and Saturday. There is no cover charge.

Here is the rundown of entertainment for the 64th annual event:

Friday, Sept. 5

- 7 to 11 p.m. Stiff Kitty
- Saturday, Sept. 6**
- Noon to 3 p.m. – D’Lite Duo
 - 7 to 11 p.m. – Sons of Scennie



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So much to do

The 64th annual Darien Corn Fest promises to entertain families from throughout the area as well as visitors. There are many things to do and see during the three-day festival including shopping the crafts and vendor market, grabbing some swag, enjoying a variety of food from vendors (along with free corn) and spend some time at the carnival.

FILE PHOTOS Darien Corn Fest 2025



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Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Saturday 8am-3pm

Corn Fest

tournaments offer fun for all

Sports tournaments and games have always been a part of the Darien Corn Fest event. From softball and volleyball to corn hole and bingo, there is something for everyone.

Softball

Darien Corn Fest hosts a 32-team softball tournament every year. Prizes are awarded for the top placing teams. The entry fee is \$200 a team. Payouts (based on 32 teams competing) will be: 1st place \$1,200; 2nd place \$800; 3rd place \$600; 4th place \$300; 5th and 6th place \$150. The absolute entry deadline is Sept. 1. For more information including registering a team or volunteering to umpire, contact Nolan at rook_09@yahoo.com or 262-203-2894.

Volleyball

The volleyball tournament takes place Saturday at the West Park volleyball courts. A mandatory captain's meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday. Teams pre-register for this event. For more information, visit darienCornFest.us and see the volleyball tournament information in the menu under tournaments.

Horseshoe

The horseshoe tournament will be on Saturday and Sunday, beginning at 11 a.m. Those wanting some time to warm up are advised to arrive early. For more information, call

Shane at 262-374-3755 or visit the festival website at www.darienCornFest.us.

Cornhole

Can you pull off a Holy Moly Triple Cornhole? New this year, there will be a Friday night cornhole tournament. Register 4:30-5:30 p.m., play at 5:30 p.m. It will be a blind tournament so players enter as singles and partners will be drawn. For more information, contact Butch Koehl at 262-745-2942. The longstanding corn hole tournament will be Saturday and Sunday. Bags fly at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Bryce David at 262-949-8921, email him at deerhunter_2013@yahoo.com or visit the festival website at www.darienCornFest.us.

Bingo

Bingo is played Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It takes place in the Fire Station garage next to the festival grounds. Cash prizes are awarded with amounts varying dependent on participation.

Darien Corn Fest features a variety of tournaments including softball, volleyball, cornhole (bags) and horseshoes. Volleyball is a pre-registered competition while teams can register on site for horseshoes as well as cornhole. There is also bingo for those seeking a lower-key competition.

FILE PHOTOS Darien Corn Fest 2025





One of several Darien Corn Fest events that is always a crowd favorite is the Tri-County Pullers Mini Rod Tractor Pull, which begins at noon on Saturday, Sept. 6. According to the website, TCP aims to bring some of the "loudest and fastest paced mini-rod tractor pulling" to venues in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Tri-County has been running pull events for 30-plus years and is a "family-based organization. We support local Lions clubs, and fire and EMS organization."

SUBMITTED PHOTO Darien Corn Fest 2025



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Fun and games

Corn Fest is a family friendly event and while there are numerous things happening to entertain the family – including the festival's younger guests – the annual carnival is a favorite area for many to spend some time. While the carnival will be open all three days of the event, wristband specials are available at a cost of \$30 each from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and again from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

STOCK PHOTOS Darien Corn Fest 2025



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Birds Eye supports fest with free corn

Local company a longtime supporter of community event

Birds Eye foods in Darien donates the sweet corn for the annual Corn Fest celebration held in the village.

Free roasted corn on the cob will be served Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Darien West Park.

According to the Birds Eye website, Clarence Birdseye was a man of vision, curiosity and persistence.

Birdseye was a naturalist, a businessman and a skillful inventor who used his unique gifts to develop a flash freezing process that not only preserved food safely but also preserved its taste and appearance.

He returned to the Unites States and

formed the General Seafood Corporation with some wealthy partners who believed in his process.

The partners' financial support allowed the inventive Birdseye to develop and perfect a machine called a "Quick Freeze Machine" that he unveiled in 1926.

Birdseye then focused on marketing. He tested refrigerated grocery display cases and entered into a joint venture agreement to manufacture them.

Birdseye's company began leasing refrigerated boxcars to transport frozen foods by rail in 1944. This made national distribution a reality and Birdseye a legend.

Fresh from the farm

Birds Eye has a long history of working with local farmers and some of the company's family farms go back generations, according to the website.

"Some companies have lofty goals. To fight disease. Or feed the world. Or save the planet. At Birds Eye our ambition is humble. We just want to help people eat more vegetables," the Birds Eye website states.

Birds Eye says its vegetables ripen in the field – not on the truck.

"We pick our vegetables at the height of nutritional value. Our farmers carefully select only the best, highest-quality vegetables and they are flash frozen within hours to lock in that freshness," the website states.

"Birds Eye veggies are as nutritious when they hit your plate, as the day they were



picked," it states.

Responsible growing

Birds Eye supports farmers' efforts with irrigation water conservation to reduce usage and enable reuse of post-use water, according to the website.

The company also works together to treat only specific parts of their fields with fertilization, avoiding unnecessary costs and potential environmental impact of spraying entire fields.

According to the website, Birds Eye has invested in technology in the fields that enables it to communicate directly with the plants.

This allows them to time harvesting with their production schedule, so that they pick the vegetables at peak ripeness and transport them directly to the plants that are ready to receive, wash and freeze them all within a few hours.

The process used conserves water and energy, while locking in important nutrients and great taste, according to the website.

For more information about Birds Eye Foods, visit www.birdseye.com.



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2025

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The signs are everywhere

From the large sign and gigantic piece of sweet corn to the big chair available for some fun photo opportunities, the signs of Corn Fest are all around the Darien area and beyond. Spend some time at this family friendly event Friday, Sept. 5 through Sunday, Sept. 7. From participating in sports tournaments (or cheering on those playing) and enjoying some good eats to trying your hand at bingo and listening to live music, there is something for everyone.

FILE PHOTOS Darien Corn Fest 2025



64TH ANNUAL DARIEN CORNFEST



**DARIEN
CORN FEST**

Corn Fest
Community Market
Saturday &
Sunday

3 BIG DAYS
September 5th, 6th, & 7th
at Darien West Park

**Featuring
Delicious FREE
Sweet Corn**
**Saturday & Sunday
11AM - 3PM**
*Donated by
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FRIDAY, SEPT. 5

STIFF KITTY
On The Miller Lite Stage
7-11PM

Softball Tournament	
Corn Hole	5:30PM
Carnival Rides	6-10PM
Fireworks	9PM

**Carnival Wristband
Special \$30**

Friday 5PM-9PM
Saturday Noon-4PM
Saturday Evening 5PM-9PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Corn Fest Breakfast	7:30-10AM
Softball Tournament	10AM-7PM
Bingo	10AM-7PM
Volleyball Tournament	11AM-4PM
Darien Women's Club	
Caramel Apple Delights	11AM-4PM
Corn Hole Tournament	11AM
Horseshoe Tournament	11AM
D'Lite Duo	Noon-3PM
Mini-Rod Tractor Pull	Noon

SONS OF SCONNIE
On The Miller Lite Stage
7-11PM

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

Corn Fest Breakfast	8-10:30AM
Co-Ed Softball Tournament	9AM
Antique Tractor Pull & Farm Stock Pull	9AM
Bingo	10-3PM
Carnival Rides	11AM
Corn Hole	11AM
Horseshoe Tournament	11AM
Darien Women's Club	
Caramel Apple Delights	11AM-5PM
Liberty Bike Ride	11:15AM
Parade (Downtown Darien)	Noon
The Big Corn Shell-Out	3PM
Raffle Drawing	4PM

(\$1 Each or 6 Tickets for \$5)

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• Koozies • T-Shirts • Sweatshirts





For More Information Go To
DARIENCORNFEST.US

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all weekend**