

78th Persimmon Festival

*Persimmon Trees
& Tomorrow's Dreams*



**Grounded in Tradition
Growing for the Future**
September 20 - 27, 2025

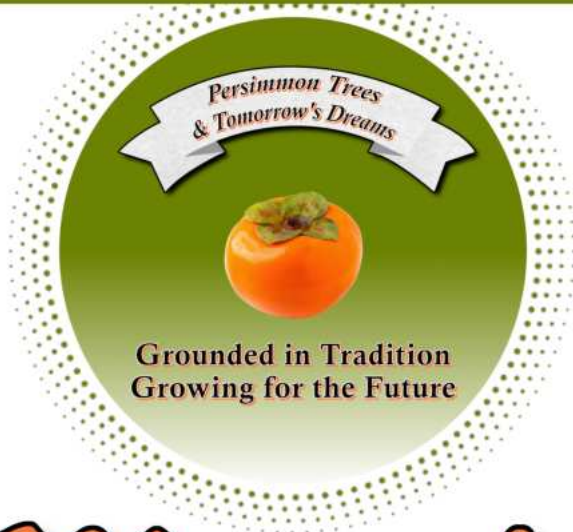
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Mayor's Welcome

On behalf of the Mitchell Community, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 78th Persimmon Festival. For decades, this beloved tradition has brought people together to celebrate our city's history, heritage, and of course the mighty persimmon.

Chairman Bryan Fountain, co-chairs Katie Houchin, Jodi Clark and many volunteers have labored long and hard to bring exciting entertainment, delicious food and friendly hospitality that makes our festival truly special. Whether you are here for the carnival, contests, food, stage shows or the grand parade, we hope you find joy in every moment and create wonderful memories with family and friends.

We are grateful for the dedication of our many volunteers, sponsors and vendors who make our festival possible year after year.

Don Caudell II

Mayor of the City of Mitchell



Persimmon Festival

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Explore our delicious pudding and novelty recipes and discover the rewards that come with them.

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Witness the spectacular procession featuring floats, marching bands, and colorful performances that energize the festival!



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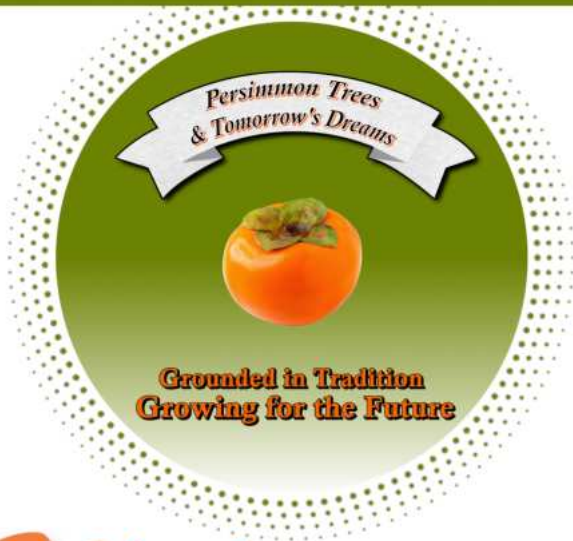
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Welcome

Welcome to the 78th Annual Mitchell Persimmon Festival! I'm Bryan Fountain, and it's an honor to serve as this year's General Chairperson. Like many of you, I've grown up loving this festival—our carnival rides, the food tents, the Grand Parade, and all the traditions that make this week so special.

This year's theme, "Persimmon Trees and Tomorrow's Dreams: Grounded in Tradition, Growing for the Future," reminds us why we gather each fall. We celebrate where we've come from and look ahead with pride and hope for what's next.

Our amazing committee has been hard at work preparing to make this a festival to remember. I'm lucky to serve alongside Co-Chairs Katie Houchin and Jodi Clark and a group of dedicated volunteers who care deeply about this town.

We're bringing back your favorite events and adding new touches—from expanded carnival rides and delicious local vendors to fresh entertainment and old favorites returning to the stage.

Thank you for celebrating with us. Whether this is your first Persimmon Festival or your 78th, we're glad you're here. Join us September 20–27, 2025! We can't wait to see you downtown!

Bryan Fountain
General Chairperson 2025





2025 Persimmon Festival Chairpersons



GENERAL CHAIRPERSON
Bryan Fountain

Bryan Fountain is honored to serve as the 78th General Chair of the Persimmon Festival. A lifelong member of the Mitchell community, Bryan has been a student, teacher, and now principal in the town he's always called home. His passion for education runs in the family—his parents, Jerry and June, were longtime Burris Elementary teachers.

A 2002 Mitchell High School graduate, Bryan holds a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Ball State (2006) and a Master's in School Leadership from Indiana Wesleyan (2024). With 19 years in education, he began teaching in Loogootee before returning to Burris Elementary, later becoming Instructional Coach and now principal at Hatfield Elementary.

Bryan stays active in youth-focused organizations, volunteering with Lawrence County 4-H and previously serving in the Mitchell Education Association. He and his husband, Austin, live on a farm in Bedford where they raise Boer goats, care for their Irish Doodle, Paisley, and a few barn cats. Though he lives in Bedford, Bryan's heart is in Mitchell, and serving as Festival Chair is a dream come true. He looks forward to celebrating with the community at the 78th Persimmon Festival.



2025 Persimmon



Co-Chair
Katie Houchin

Kathryn "Katie" Houchin, a lifelong resident of Mitchell, is excited to serve as a co-chairperson for this year's Persimmon Festival. With a rich family history of festival involvement—her grandfather chaired the Persimmon Pudding contest in the 1960s, her father was general chairperson in the 1980s, and her mother and aunt managed the Phi Beta Food tent—Katie has been a festival enthusiast from a young age. She was named Persimmon Festival Queen in 2009 and has chaired the Queen contest since 2017.

A proud graduate of Mitchell High School and Ball State University, Katie earned her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame. She works as an SLP at a local skilled nursing facility. Katie and her husband, Daniel, have three children: Rhett, Ryleigh, and Reagan. She looks forward to contributing to the festival and hopes everyone enjoys the 78th Annual Mitchell Persimmon Festival.



Greater
MITCHELL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Executive Branch

Jodi Clark, Don Caudell II, and Toya Lamm

Chamber Office Manager and Secretary: Krissy Mundy

Festival Chairpersons



Co-Chair
Jodi Clark

Jodi Clark is honored to serve as Co-Chair of the Persimmon Festival, continuing her long-standing dedication to this cherished community tradition. A lifelong Mitchell resident, Jodi has been involved with the festival for many years, including over 17 years working the Phi Beta food booth as a member of the Phi Beta Phi Sorority. She's also served as the Queen Pageant Chair and was crowned the 1991 Persimmon Festival Queen.

Professionally, Jodi is an insurance agent with Indiana Farm Bureau and serves as Vice President of the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce Board. Her passion for the festival and her community shines through in every role she takes on.

Jodi lives in Mitchell with her husband, Terry, and together they look forward to making more memories with family and friends at the Persimmon Festival.



Greater
MITCHELL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board of Directors

Mark Bryant	Krissy Mundy	Marvin Patton
Tonya Chastain	Jodi Clark	Danny Reynolds
Toya Lammn	Sarah Murphy	Max Ziebell



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2025 Persimmon Festival Chairpersons

Event	Committee Chair	Phone
General Chairperson	Bryan Fountain	812-583-1292
Co-Chairperson	Katie Houchin	812-278-0200
Co-Chairperson	Jodi Clark	812-583-6119
Treasurer	Don Caudell II	812-797-9550
Antique Tractor	Matt Roll	812-276-3637
Armband Sales	Jan Dalton	812-849-4142
Arts, Crafts and Photo Contest	Susie Cessna	812-849-3082
Arts, Crafts and Photo Contest	Barbara Wigley	812-797-4124
Art Exhibits	W.David Fields	812-278-4723
Baby Contest	Bobbi Hunter	812-797-3037
Baby Contest	Mackenzie Reeve	812-583-4361
Community Yard Sale	Chamber Office	812-849-4441
Cruise In	Cory Wheat	812-653-7705
Emergency Equipment Show	Tyler Duncan	812-583-6770
Festival Photographer	Sarah Adams	812-797-0763
Festival Vendors	Charity Russell	812-797-1172
Float Preparation	Becky Mason	812-797-4491
Food Vendors	Maren Terrell	812-606-4492
Little, Mini, Jr. Miss Pageant	Holly Tanksley	812-865-0096
Motorcycle Show	Rob Stephens	812-797-4876
Parade	Laura Asbury	812-279-0794
Persimmon Dessert & Novelty	Courtney George McFadden	812-521-2849
Persimmon 5K Walk/Run	Sally Miller	812-508-4073
Persimmon Idol	WBIW/WQRK/LiteFM	812-275-7555
Persimmon Market	Lori Hall	812-675-9610
Queen Pageant	Michele Super	812-675-2361
Quilt Show	Dee Brinkworth	812-675-7419
Road Rally	Missy Little	812-797-7959
Senior Day	Trudy Wells	812-849-4457
Ticket Booth	Chamber Office	812-849-4441
Vesper Service	Daniel Lee	812-788-1461



PAST Persimmon Festival Chairpersons

2024	Aimee Carlisle Phillips	1990	Oweetah Scott
2023	Carol Chambers	1989	Gerald Tolliver
2022	Don Caudell	1987-88	Terry Slone
	Larry Caudell	1986	George James
	Tonya Chastain	1985	Reny Burgi
	Mark Bryant	1984	David Nolan
	Krystal Shetler	1983	Dana Dunbar
2021	Suzanne Patton	1982	Chris Burton
2020	No Festival	1981	Gary Pruett
2019	Andy Mullen	1980	Randy Young
2018	Larry Caudell	1979	Don Caudell II
2017	Elizabeth Freeman-Cammack	1978	Bradley Atkinson
2016	Henry Shetler	1977	Tom Fisher
2015	Teresa Reynolds	1976	Albert S. Chastain
2014	Christina Hooten	1975	Dana Dunbar
2013	Lori Quebbeman	1974	Don W. Caudell
2012	Steve Dobson	1973	Keith York
2011	Larry Hardman	1972	Donna B. Sweigart
2010	Krystal Shetler	1971	Albert S. Chastain
2009	Vicky Schegel	1970	Mary O. Harrison
2008	Jay Tomlinson	1969	Lee Hupp
2007	Jamey Sullivan	1968	Gilbert Sheeks
2006	Troy Quebbeman	1967	H.W. Purkhiser
2005	Greg Smith	1966	Ruth Curtis
2004	Scott Jenkins	1965	Stanley Henderson
2003	Larry Root	1962-64	Don W. Caudell
2002	Dean Pielemeier	1960-61	Ned Grayson
2001	Tonya Chastain	1959	George Bishop
2000	Jeff Helfrich	1954-58	F.X. Newman
1999	Paul Barlow	1953	Wendell Holmes
1998	Andrea McCord	1952	F.X. Newman
1997	Mark Bryant	1951	R.B. Pearson
1996	David Nolan	1947-50	George Bishop
1995	Gary Pruett		
1994	Timothy Clouse		
1993	Brenda Dunbar		
1992	George James		
1991	Gerald Tolliver		



2025 Chamber

37 Pipe and Supply LLC
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 Alternative Care Solutions
 American Legion Post 250
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 City of Mitchell
 Crane Division, NSWC
 Danny Baker
 DNA Designs
 Don Caudell II
 Duke Energy
 Edwards Heating & Cooling
 El Compadre Mexican Restaurant
 Engleking RX, LLC
 Five Star Pro Construction
 Flynn & Sons Excavating & Paving INC.
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 LawCo Living LLC
 Lawrence County 4-H Clubs & Fair Association
 Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services
 Lawrence County Community Foundation
 Lawrence County Government
 Lawrence County Historical Society, Inc.
 Lawrence County Tourism Commission
 Living Well Home Care
 Lucas Indiana Realty & Home Services
 MaddieLee Creations
 Magical Vacation Planner
 Main Street Raceway
 Marion Township Trustee
 Mark Bryant
 Marlow Concrete LLC
 Marvin Davis VFW Post 9107
 Mid-Southern Savings Bank, FSB
 Mikels Signs LLC
 Mitchell Community Public Library
 Mitchell Community Schools
 Mitchell Grissom Kiwanis Club
 Mitchell Lions Club
 Mitchell Manor
 Mitchell Masonic Lodge #228
 Mitchell Opera House
 Mitchell Optical Co. Inc.
 Mitchell Senior Citizens INC
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Past Festival Themes

1940s

1948 | Reliance Day



1950s



1959 | Air Force and Space Travel

1960s

- 1962 | Lehigh's 60 Years in Mitchell
- 1964 | Rededication to the United States
- 1965 | We Lift Up Our Eyes to These Hills
- 1966 | A State is but the Body of a Nation. The people who inhabit its Hills and its Valleys are its Soul, its Spirit, its Life
- 1967 | It's About Time – In This Place; It's About people and the Human Race
- 1968 | Freedom is Not Free
- 1969 | A Salute to Education, The Apprentice of Life



1970s



- 1970 | Happiness is...The Success of the Persimmon Festival
- 1971 | Silver Anniversary
- 1972 | Our Autumn Homecoming
- 1973 | A Historical Review Trimmed in Red, White and Blue
- 1974 | Uncle Sam Still Stands Tall
- 1975 | Our Living Heritage 1775-1975
- 1976 | Youth-Young and Old Unite Through Heritage
- 1977 | A Journey Down Persimmon Lane
- 1978 | Encounter of the Mitchell Kind
- 1979 | Tradition With a "Touch" of Tomorrow

Past Festival Themes

1980s

- 1980 | Hoosier Hospitality
- 1981 | America—The Beautiful
- 1983 | Progress Through Education
- 1984 | One of a Kind
- 1985 | A Tradition of Hospitality
- 1986 | Freedom The American Way of Life
- 1987 | Proudly We Stand
- 1988 | Super Homecoming '88—42 Years Proud
- 1989 | Memories for Children of All Ages



1990s



- 1990 | We Will Always Be True to the Gold and Blue
- 1991 | Volunteers—Making our Community Strong
- 1992 | Proud to Be an American
- 1993 | Secure The Future...Invest in Our Youth
- 1994 | An Autumn Homecoming
- 1995 | Persimmon Festival '95...We're Still Rockin'
- 1996 | Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future
- 1997 | A Hometown Reunion
- 1998 | Persimmon Festival '98...Through the Eyes of a Child
- 1999 | Uniquely Mitchell

2000s

- 2000 | Soaring Into a New Century
- 2001 | Building Today for Future Generations
- 2002 | Our Heritage...Our Future
- 2003 | From Railroads to Rockets
- 2004 | A Salute to the Volunteers
- 2005 | Our Education Foundation—Mitchell Schools
- 2006 | Sixty Years of Memories
- 2007 | At Your Service
- 2008 | Mitchell Hometown Heroes
- 2009 | Welcome Home



2010s



- 2010 | Generation After Generation
- 2011 | Protect & Serve
- 2012 | Small Town Proud
- 2013 | Mitchell Athletics—Past, Present and Future
- 2014 | Shop Local—Buy Mitchell
- 2015 | Celebrating with the Sound of Music
- 2016 | Healing Hands, Helping Hearts
- 2017 | Persimmon City Harvest: Celebrating Farmers & Ag
- 2018 | Industries and Businesses Supporting our Community
- 2019 | Mitchell Around the World

Past Festival Themes

2020s

- 2021 | Investing in Mitchell
- 2022 | 75 Years of Persimmon Traditions
- 2023 | Art & Music – Our Students Our Future
- 2024 | Home Is Where The Persimmon Is



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Schedule YOUR

2025

Persimmon Festival

- ☒ Buy kids' wristbands
- ☒ Watch Persimmon Idol
- ☒ Go to the parade

Festival FUN!

SATURDAY 20th

8 AM

Yard Sales

Mitchell, Indiana

Yard sales will be happening all over Mitchell, IN. Pick up a list at the Mitchell Chamber office closer to time!

Call (812) 849-4441 to add your yardsale to the list.

**9 AM
- 2 PM**

Persimmon Market

Community Building - 101 Tom Green Dr.

Support local small businesses as you browse through vendors featuring boutique items, handmade decor, treats, and much more!

Call (812) 675-9610 for more information.

**9 AM
- 1 PM**

Dutch Oven Extravaganza

Mitchell Park - 101 Tom Green Dr.

As soon as you step out of your car, you will smell the delicious food that is prepared!

**9 AM
- 2 PM**

Fine Arts Entry

Mitchell Community Public Library

Enter your fine arts projects for the Fine Arts Contest! \$5 per person. Limit to 3 paintings per person. Open to any artist 18 years or older.

Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

SATURDAY 20th

12 PM
- 4 PM

EMS Day

MHS Soccer Field - Hancock Ave.

Bring your kids and stop by to see the emergency equipment. Ambulances, fire trucks, and other fun things!
Call (812) 583-6770 for more information.

2 PM

Baby Contest

Burris School - 1755 Hancock Ave.

Enter your sweet baby in the baby contest!
0-3 months, 4-6 months, 7-12 months, 13-23 months, 2-3 years
\$5 fee. \$2 admission fee.
Call (812)-797-3037 for more information.

4 PM
- 9 PM

Candlelight Tour

Spring Mill State Park - 3333 State Rd. 60 E

Join us for a reenactment of life in the 1800s - Plus concessions, music, and more! Sponsored by Tri Kappa Sorority. Gate fees apply.
Call (812) 849-4441 for more information.

SUNDAY^{21st}

**12 PM
- 5 PM**

Road Rally

Mitchell High School Front Parking Lot

Have some fun with a carload of friends and family while you tour our beautiful county! Win prizes while you're at it! **\$10 per carload.** Call (812)-797-7959 for more information.

7 PM

Vesper Service

Mitchell Opera House - 217 N 7th St.

Sponsored by the Lawrence County Ministerial Alliance.
Kick off the festival with a time of prayer and reflection.

Welcome to the 78th Persimmon Festival

The ACE logo features the letters 'ACE' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a solid red rectangular background.The Ben Franklin logo features the name 'Ben Franklin' in a red, serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right, all contained within a white rectangular box.

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MONDAY ^{22nd}

9 AM
- 8 PM

Art & Quilt Exhibit

Mitchell Community Public Library

Examine fine displays of paintings and amazing quilts! Open Mon., Tues., and Thurs. 9am - 8pm | Wed., Fri. 9am- 5pm | Sat. 9am - 2pm

Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

11 AM
- 2 PM

Puddin' Pan

Jacob Finger Methodist Church - 139 N. 8th St.

Stop by and grab you a delicious piece of persimmon pudding and enjoy their daily lunch specials!

11 AM
- 10 PM

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Phi Beta Psi Sorority and Mitchell Wesleyan Church to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

2 PM
- 6 PM

Arts, Crafts, Photography

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

View beautiful arts, crafts, and photography created by locals! Viewing is open to the public.

Call (812) 849-3082 for more information.

4:30
PM

BBQ Pork Dinner

Main Street Food Tent – Behind Main Street Stage

Come enjoy BBQ pulled pork dinner prepared by Jacob Finger Methodist Church. The proceeds will go to the Royal Family KIDS camp.

5 PM
- 10 PM
28

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Kiwanis Persimmon Ice Cream Booth and the Varsity Club Food Tent to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

MONDAY ^{22nd}

6 PM

*Mini, Little, Junior Miss
Queen Crowning*

Main Street Stage

2025 Mitchell Persimmon Festival recognition of Queens
and her court

7 PM

Queen Announcement

Main Street Stage

2025 Mitchell Persimmon Festival Queen and court
recognition.

**7:30
PM**

Persimmon Idol

Main Street Stage

Stick around after the pageant announcements to enjoy a
delightful singing showdown among the locals!

TUESDAY 23rd

9 AM
- 8 PM

Art & Quilt Exhibit

Mitchell Community Public Library

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Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

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- 8 PM

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American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

View beautiful arts, crafts, and photography created by locals!
Viewing is open to the public.

Call (812) 849-3082 for more information.

4:30
PM

Pulled Pork & Baked Potatoes

Main Street Food Tent - Behind Main Street Stage

Come by and enjoy a beef roast dinner served by the Mitchell Wrestling squad.

5 PM

Carnival Rides

Main Street

Today is the first day of carnival rides! Buy your tickets or your bracelet and get in line!

TUESDAY^{23rd}

5 PM
- 9 PM

Brats on the Deck

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

A yearly tradition is Brats on the Deck at the American Legion. Stop by anytime for dinner!

5 PM
- 10 PM

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Kiwanis Persimmon Ice Cream Booth and the Varsity Club Food Tent to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

6 PM

MHS Stingerz

Main Street Stage

Watch the award-winning dance team, Mitchell High School Stingerz, perform live on stage!

6:30
PM

MJHS Dance Team and the Burris Bees

Main Street Stage

It will be hard not to dance along while the Mitchell Junior High Dance Team and the Burris Bees are on stage!

7:30PM
- 9:30PM

Cody Ikerd & the Sidewinders

Main Street Stage

Lawrence County native, Cody Ikerd, and his band will perform live on stage playing the country songs we know and love, and some original songs!

WEDNESDAY 24th

9 AM

- 5 PM

Art & Quilt Exhibit

Mitchell Community Public Library

Examine fine displays of paintings and amazing quilts! Open Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9am - 8pm | Wed, Fri 9am - 5pm | Sat 9am - 2pm
Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

11 AM

- 2 PM

Puddin' Pan

Jacob Finger Methodist Church - 139 N. 8th St.

Stop by and grab a delicious piece of persimmon pudding and enjoy their daily specials

11 AM

- 10 PM

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Phi Beta Psi Sorority and Mitchell Wesleyan Church to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

12 PM

- 8 PM

Arts, Crafts, Photography

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

View beautiful arts, crafts, and photography created by locals!
Viewing is open to the public.

Call (812) 849-3082 for more information.

1 PM

- 7 PM

Grissom Home Tour

Gus Grissom Boyhood Home - 715 W. Grissom Ave.

Stop by the home that astronaut, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom grew up in and take a FREE tour!

Call (812) 849-1090 for more information.

1 PM

Senior Citizen Day

Main Street Stage

Right around lunch time, we will have some great music playing on the stage! Sponsored by Belle's Place of Bedford.

Call (812)-849-4457 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 24th

4:30
PM

Italian Dinner

Main Street Food Tent – Behind Main Street Stage

St. Mary's Catholic Church will be serving a tasty italian dinner.

5 PM
- 9 PM

Brats on the Deck

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

A yearly tradition is Brats in the Deck at the American Legion. Stop by anytime for dinner!

5 PM
- 10 PM

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Kiwanis Persimmon Ice Cream Booth and the Varsity Club Food Tent to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

5 PM

Carnival Rides

Main Street

Load the kids in the car and head over to the Persimmon Festival! Buy your tickets or wristband and get in line for your favorite carnival ride!

5:30 PM
- 6:30 PM

The Breeding Sisters

Main Street Stage

Come out to the Main Street Stage and enjoy the sweet harmonies of The Breeding Sisters!

7:30 PM
- 9:30 PM

Kirby Stailey

Main Street Stage

Join us for an unforgettable evening of live gospel music with Kirby Stailey!

THURSDAY 25th

9 AM

- 8 PM

Art & Quilt Exhibit

Mitchell Community Public Library

Examine fine displays of paintings and amazing quilts! Open Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9am - 8pm | Wed, Fri 9am - 5pm | Sat 9am - 2 pm
Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

11 AM

- 2 PM

Puddin' Pan

Jacob Finger Methodist Church - 139 N. 8th St.

Stop by and grab a delicious piece of persimmon pudding and enjoy their daily specials

11 AM

-10 PM

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Phi Beta Psi Sorority and Mitchell Wesleyan Church to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

12 PM

- 8 PM

Arts, Crafts, Photography

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

View beautiful arts, crafts, and photography created by locals!
Viewing is open to the public.
Call (812) 849-3082 for more information.

4:30

PM

Mexican Dinner

Main Street Food Tent - Behind Main Street Stage

Come out to the Main Street Food Tent where Mitchell High School Stingerz Dance Team will be serving a Mexican Dinner.

5 PM

- 9 PM

Brats on the Deck

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

A yearly tradition is Brats on the Deck at the American Legion. Stop by anytime for dinner!

THURSDAY^{25th}

5 PM

Carnival Rides

Main Street

Load the kids in the car and head over to the Persimmon Festival! Buy your tickets or wristband and get in line for your favorite carnival ride!

**5 PM
-10 PM**

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Kiwanis Persimmon Ice Cream Booth and the Varsity Club Food Tent to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

6 PM

Malachi Parks Band

Main Street Stage

Listen to the Malachi Parks Band light up the stage with an unforgettable live set on the Main Street Stage!

8 PM

Flatline Band

Main Street Stage

Hang out by the main stage and enjoy a live performance by Flatline Band!

FRIDAY ^{26th}

**9 AM
- 5 PM**

Art & Quilt Exhibit

Mitchell Community Public Library

Examine fine displays of paintings and amazing quilts! Open Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9am - 8pm | Wed, Fri 9am - 5pm | Sat 9am - 2 pm
Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

**11 AM
- 2 PM**

Puddin' Pan

Jacob Finger Methodist Church - 139 N. 8th St.

Stop by and grab a delicious piece of persimmon pudding and enjoy their daily specials

**12 PM
- 8 PM**

Arts, Crafts, Photography

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

View beautiful arts, crafts, and photography created by locals!
Viewing is open to the public.

Call (812) 849-3082 for more information.

**4:30
PM**

Steak Dinner

Main Street

Visit Lawrence County Cattlemen's Association to enjoy a delicious steak dinner.

**5 PM
- 9 PM**

Brats on the Deck

American Legion Post 250 - 404 Sheeks Drive

A yearly tradition is Brats on the Deck at the American Legion. Stop by anytime for dinner!

FRIDAY 26th

5 PM

Carnival Rides

Main Street

Load the kids in the car and head over to the Persimmon Festival! Buy your tickets or wristband and get in line for your favorite ride!

**5 PM
- 10 PM**

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Visit Kiwanis Persimmon Ice Cream Booth and the Varsity Club Food Tent to see what delicious foods are on the menu.

6 PM

The Unnamed Band

Main Street Stage

Don't miss out on The Unnamed Band live!

8 PM

Vintage

Main Street Stage

Listen to Vintage live on stage! This local band plays the best music from the 80's.



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to the Persimmon Festival

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**963 South Maple Street
Orleans, IN 47452
812-865-2727
Store Hours: 7am-10pm**

Follow us on Facebook for more updates! 

SATURDAY^{27th}

7 AM
-10 AM

Pancake Breakfast

Masonic Lodge - 309 N. 9th St.

Start your Saturday off right with a full course breakfast made by men at the Masonic Lodge.

8:30
AM

Persimmon 5K

Front of MHS Parking Lot

Join us for the 5k run & walk! There are several categories. Registration begins at 7:30 am. **\$20 admission.**

Call (812)-508-4073 for more information.

8 AM
-11 AM

Persimmon Pudding & Novelty Contest

First Church of God - 405 N. 12th St.

Sign up for the persimmon pudding and novelty contest! Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Call (812) 521-2849 for more information.

9 AM
-12 PM

Tri-County Tractor & Equipment Show

Solutions Center - 1490 W. Main St.

Bring your antique tractor and/or machinery to show all of our guests how it was in the good old days! Open to the public.

Call (812) 276-3637 for more information.

9 AM
-12 PM

Cruise-In

Mitchell Opera House - 217 N. 7th St.

Bring your vehicle to the cruise in! This is a great chance to show off your ride!

Call (812)-653-7705 for more information.

9 AM
- 2 PM

Art & Quilt Exhibit

Mitchell Community Public Library

Examine fine displays of paintings and amazing quilts! Open Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9am - 8pm | Wed. Fri 9am - 5pm | Sat 9am - 2pm

Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

SATURDAY 27th

9:30 AM
12:30 PM

Motorcycle Show

Railroad Cafe - 5th Street

The motorcycle show is open to the public! Want to show off your own ride? **Entry fee is \$10.**

Call (812) 797-4876 for more information.

11 AM

Chili Dinner

Main Street Food Tent – Behind Main Street Stage

Come out to the Main Street Food Tent where the Mitchell Walking Club will be serving a chili dinner.

12 PM

Carnival Rides

Main Street

Load the kids in the car and head over to the Persimmon Festival! Buy your tickets or wristband and get in line for your favorite carnival ride!

1:30 PM

Grand Parade Opening Ceremonies

Main Street Stage

Let's kick-off and celebrate this year's Grand Parade!

2 PM

Grand Parade

Main Street

Let's end the 2025 Persimmon Festival with a bang! Join us for the Grand Parade!

4 PM

Awards Ceremony

Main Street Stage

It's time to learn the winners of the Persimmon Pudding and Novelty contest!

SATURDAY^{27th}

**4 PM
- 7 PM**

Grissom Home Tour

Gus Grissom Boyhood Home - 715 W. Grissom Ave.
Stop by the home that astronaut, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom grew up in, and take a FREE tour!
Call (812) 849-1090 for more information.

4:30 PM

Bloomington Jazz Orchestra

Main Street Stage

See former Mitchell Band Director, Hank Wintczak, in action as he plays the saxophones in the Bloomington Jazz Orchestra!

6 PM

King Bee & the Stingers

Main Street Stage

Come out and enjoy this six-piece blues, soul, and funk band playing classic, gritty roadhouse blues!

8 PM

Endless Summer Band

Main Street Stage

Don't miss an awesome live performance by Endless Summer Band to end the 2025 Persimmon Festival with a bang!



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Guide
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WBIW
1340 AM



Persimmon FOODIE

MAIN STREET FOOD BOOTHS

PHI BETA PSI SORORITY TENT

11 AM - 10 PM

NORTHEAST CORNER OF 6TH
& MAIN STREET

MITCHELL WESLEYAN CHURCH

11 AM - 10 PM

ON MAIN STREET

KIWANIS PERSIMMON ICE CREAM

5 PM - 10 PM

NORTHEAST CORNER OF 6TH
& MAIN STREET

VARISITY CLUB FOOD TENT

5 PM - 10 PM

NORTHWEST CORNER OF 6TH
MAIN STREET

FOOD TRUCKS & PRIVATE VENDORS

Open Monday, September 22, 2025 – Saturday, September 27, 2025

Food Trucks open 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Food Stands open 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

MAIN STREET

MONDAY

4:30 PM

**BBQ PORK
DINNER**

JACOB FINGER
METHODIST CHURCH

TUESDAY

4:30 PM

**PULLED PORK AND
BAKED POTATOES**

MITCHELL
WRESTLING

WEDNESDAY

4:30 PM

**ITALIAN
DINNER**

ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Festival FAVORITES



SUPPORT OUR NONPROFITS

DUTCH OVEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Mitchell City Park
101 Tom Green Dr.

PUDDIN' PAN

Jacob Finger Methodist Church
139 N. 8th St.

BRATS ON THE BACK DECK

American Legion Post 250
404 Sheeks Drive

MASONIC LODGE BREAKFAST

Mitchell Masonic Lodge
309 N. 9th Street

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

MONDAY – FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2025
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

TUESDAY – FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2025
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

FOOD TENT

THURSDAY

4:30 PM

MEXICAN DINNER

MHS STINGERZ
DANCE TEAM

FRIDAY

4:30 PM

STEAK DINNER

LAWRENCE COUNTY
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY

4:30 PM

CHILI DINNER

MITCHELL
WALKING CLUB



THRILLS & CHILLS



KIDDIE RIDES

AMUSEMENT RIDE HOURS

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
CARNIVAL OPENS AT 5 PM

SATURDAY
CARNIVAL OPENS AT 12 PM

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CARNIVAL EXCITEMENT



FUN GAMES



THRILL RIDES

TICKET AND WRISTBAND INFO

TICKETS

\$1.50 EACH OR 22 FOR \$30
RIDES TAKE 2 OR MORE TICKETS



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TUES / WED / THURS / FRI
\$30 EACH

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22 Ticket Sheet (Any Day)

PRESALE LOCATIONS

- Ben Franklin/Ace Hardware
- Mitchell Chamber of Commerce
- Hoosier Hills Credit Union - Mitchell
- Mitchell City Hall
- Lawrence County Tourism
- Mitchell Marathon
- Mid-Southern Savings Bank

\$20

47



FAMILY FUN AND UNIQUE ADVENTURES

CAVERN BOAT TOUR

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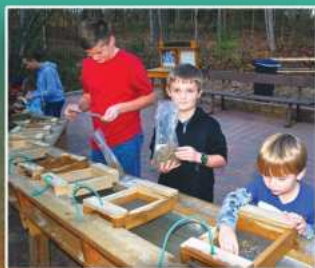
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Featured Exhibits & Attractions

MARKETS

101 Tom Green Dr.
Saturday 20th
9am - 2pm

Explore the Persimmon Market in Mitchell, Indiana, where creativity and craftsmanship come to life. This lively market features an array of unique arts, crafts, and clothing, showcasing the talents of local artisans and vendors. Wander through a diverse selection of handmade goods, stylish apparel, and one-of-a-kind treasures. The Persimmon Market is the perfect destination to find distinctive items and experience the vibrant spirit of Mitchell.



Persimmon Market

50 Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information

Featured Exhibits & Attractions



Arts & Quilts Exhibit

Arts, Crafts, Photos



Mitchell Community
Public Library
Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd, and
Thursday 25th
9am-8pm
Wednesday 24th and Friday 26th
9am-5pm

Explore the Local Arts and Quilt Exhibit at the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell, Indiana, and experience the vibrant creativity of the region. This captivating display features a stunning collection of handcrafted quilts and fine art, highlighting the skill and passion of local artists. Each piece showcases the rich heritage and artistic talent of the community, offering a visual feast of color and design. The exhibit is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the artistry that flourishes in Mitchell.

American Legion Post 250 -
404 Sheeks Drive
Monday 22nd
2pm-6pm
Tuesday 23rd- Friday 26th
12pm-8pm

At the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell, Indiana, the Photo, Arts, and Craft Exhibit draws attention with its competitive showcase of local talent. Participants submit their best works in photography, visual arts, and handcrafted creations, all vying for prestigious awards. Each entry reflects the creativity and skill of the artists, contributing to a dynamic and engaging display. This vibrant competition highlights the exceptional talent within the community and celebrates their artistic achievements.

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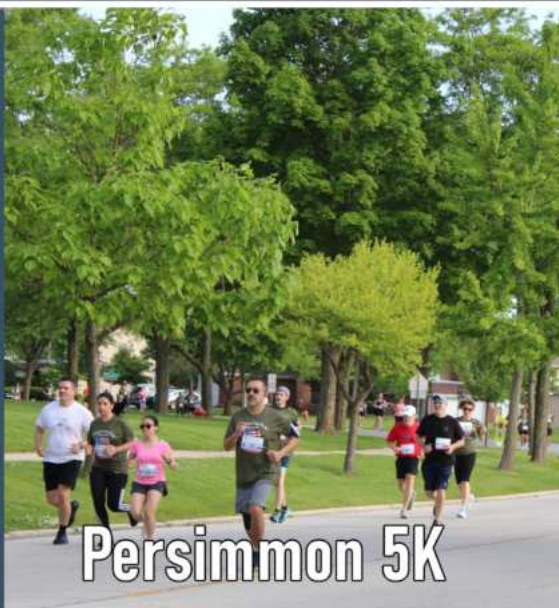
Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information **51**

Featured Exhibits & Attractions

RACES

Front MHS Parking Lot
Saturday 27th 8:30am

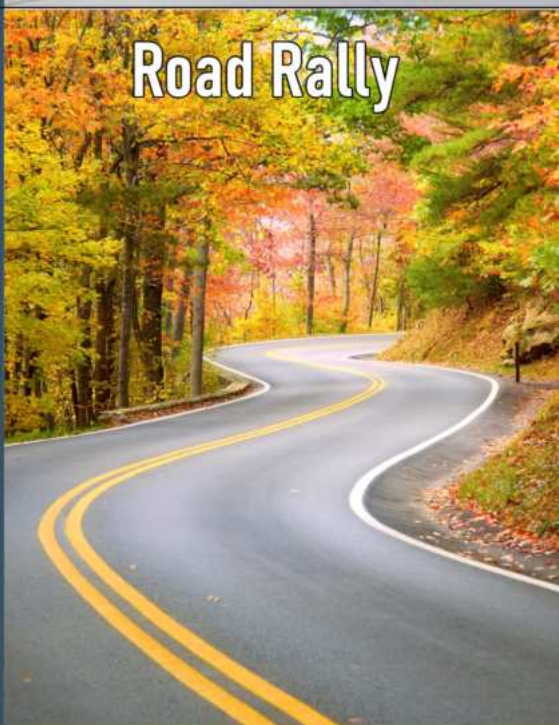
The Persimmon 5K is a vibrant and energizing event that draws runners of all levels to enjoy a scenic course through the heart of the community. Participants can challenge themselves with the 5K run or walk while soaking in the festival's lively atmosphere and beautiful autumn surroundings. The event fosters a spirit of health and camaraderie, with runners and spectators alike celebrating the achievement together. The Persimmon 5K is a fantastic way to wind down the festival while promoting fitness and community engagement in Mitchell, Indiana.



Persimmon 5K

Front Paking Lot
Mitchell High School
Sunday 21st
12pm-5pm

The Persimmon Festival Road Rally in Mitchell, Indiana, offers an exhilarating adventure for car enthusiasts and casual drivers alike. This exciting event combines the thrill of a scenic road rally with the festive spirit of the festival, guiding participants through picturesque routes and local landmarks. Teams navigate the course, completing fun challenges and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow rally-goers. The Road Rally is a unique way to experience the festival's vibrant atmosphere while exploring the beauty of the Mitchell area.



Road Rally

Featured Exhibits & Attractions



Spring Mill Candlelight Tour

Spring Mill State Park
Saturday 20th
4pm

Immerse yourself in pioneer charm at the Spring Mill Candlelight Tour in Mitchell, Indiana! Wander through a historic village illuminated by candles, showcasing the warmth and simplicity of early American life. Enjoy fall foliage, live folk music, and seasonal treats in this captivating celebration of history and harvest.



Virgil I Grissom Boyhood Home Tour

715 W. Grissom Ave
Wednesday 24th
1pm - 7pm
Saturday 27th
4pm - 7pm

Explore the Boyhood Home of Virgil I. Grissom in Mitchell, Indiana, and step back into the early years of an American hero. This intimate tour offers a glimpse into the modest beginnings of the astronaut who ventured into space. Wander through the home where Grissom's journey from small-town youth to pioneering astronaut began, and discover personal artifacts that highlight his remarkable life. Experience the inspiring story of his early years and the legacy he left behind.

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Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information **53**

Featured Exhibits & Attractions

MOTOR

Mitchell Opera House 217 N. 7th St.
Saturday 27th
9am - 12pm

Rev up your excitement at the Cruise-In during the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell, Indiana, where classic cars and custom rides take center stage. This exhilarating event features an impressive lineup of vintage vehicles, showcasing their sleek designs and powerful engines. Car enthusiasts and families alike can enjoy the sight of meticulously restored classics and unique modifications. The Cruise-In is a vibrant highlight of the festival, celebrating automotive passion and bringing the community together for a memorable showcase of wheels.



Cruise-In

5th Street by Railroad Cafe
Saturday 27th
9:30am - 12:30pm

The Motorcycle Show at the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell, Indiana, revs up excitement with an impressive display of sleek, custom bikes and classic models.

Enthusiasts and visitors can marvel at a diverse collection of motorcycles, from vintage classics to modern custom designs, each showcasing meticulous craftsmanship and unique style. The show provides a fantastic opportunity for bike lovers to connect, share their passion, and appreciate the artistry behind each machine. With its vibrant atmosphere and eye-catching displays, the Motorcycle Show is a standout event that fuels the festival's energy and charm.



Motorcycle Show

54 Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information

Featured Exhibits & Attractions



Tri-County Tractor and Equipment Show

**Solutions Center - 1490 W Main St.
Saturday 27th
9am-12pm**

The Tri-County Tractor and Equipment Show at the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell, Indiana, offers a captivating blend of agricultural history and modern technology. This engaging event features a diverse collection of vintage tractors and equipment alongside the latest in modern machinery, showcasing the evolution of farming tools. Attendees can explore beautifully restored classic machines and see cutting-edge equipment that drives today's agriculture. The show provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the advancements in farming technology while celebrating the heritage of the industry.



EMS Day

**MHS Soccer Field - Hancock Ave.
Saturday 20th
12pm -4pm**

Bring your kids to the Mitchell Persimmon Festival and explore an exciting display of emergency equipment. They'll love checking out ambulances, fire trucks, and other fascinating vehicles up close. It's a fun and educational experience for the whole family. Don't miss the chance to meet local first responders and learn more about their important work!

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GENERAL REGULATIONS

The City of Mitchell Bans

All pets: **EXCEPT** certified service animals, papers required
Skateboards, bikes, scooters, and skates

Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use: **Designated Areas Only**

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Main Street Stage Spotlights

MONDAY ^{22nd}

6 PM

*Mini, Little, & Junior Miss
Queen Crowning*

7 PM

*Persimmon Festival
Queen Announcement*

TUESDAY ^{23rd}

6 PM

*MHS/Jr. High Dance
Teams & The Burris Bee's*

WEDNESDAY ^{24th}

1 PM

Senior Citizen Day

Main Street Stage Spotlights

SATURDAY 27th

1:30 PM

*Grand Parade
Opening Ceremonies*

2 PM

Grand Parade

4 PM

*Persimmon Contest
Winner Announcement*

HEADLINERS

FLATLINE



ROCK
VINTAGE
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HARDIROLL



ESB
THE PARTY STARTS NOW



ks

KIRBY STAILEY



Cody Ikerd
& THE SIDEWINDERS



Headliners Perform On Main Stage

TUESDAY
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Cody Ikerd

23rd

WEDNESDAY
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Kirby Stailey

24th

THURSDAY
8 PM
Flatline Band

25th

FRIDAY
8 PM
Vintage

26th

SATURDAY
8 PM
Endless Summer
Band
27th

Monday 22nd

7:30pm



Persimmon Idol

The Persimmon Idol competition is a dynamic feature of the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell, Indiana, spotlighting local vocal talent. Contestants of all ages compete by performing their best songs, aiming to impress the judges and capture the audience's hearts. The competition not only provides a thrilling platform for singers to showcase their abilities but also awards top performers with exciting prizes. With its emphasis on vocal excellence and rewarding talent, Persimmon Idol has become a highly anticipated highlight of the festival.

Tuesday 23rd

7:30pm



Cody Ikerd & The Sidewinders

Cody Ikerd and the Sidewinders, a country music band from southern Indiana, have been performing across the Midwest for the past seven years, opening for national artists like Hank Williams Jr., Jo Dee Messina, and The Kentucky Headhunters. They released EPs of original music in 2017 and 2019, and in May 2023, they released their first full-length album. Their shows are tailored for fans who love 90s country and appreciate original music, offering everything from boot-scootin' tunes to slow dance ballads. You can find their music on all major streaming platforms, and follow them on social media under Cody Ikerd Music.

Wednesday 24th

5:30pm



Breeding Sisters

Amy & Hannah Breeding grew up singing together in church and continue that tradition today.

They have a passion to encourage and inspire in the faith and believe in the power of God's message through song. They sing and play various instruments and love what they do. Their number one goal is to tell about the love of Jesus and help lead someone to Christ.

Wednesday 24th

7:30pm



Kirby Stailey

Kirby Stailey is a Christian Country singer/songwriter from French Lick, Indiana. He has been singing since the age of 5! Kirby has performed at the US Capitol Building, the Indiana Statehouse, and the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, TN. Just to name a few. He is a former winner of the Colgate Country Showdown and a Regional finalist of the hit TV show The Voice. Kirby just released his 5th full studio album through Chapel Valley Records in Tennessee. Kirby also wrote all of the songs he has recorded on all 5 of his studio albums. His music is available at live events, iTunes, Spotify, and Amazon music. Above all of these things, Kirby is a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ.

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Park Activities

Visit the Gus Grissom Memorial that celebrates a Hoosier astronaut. Or step back in time and take a stroll around our Pioneer Village and experience life in 1863. Don't forget the cave boat tours for added fun!

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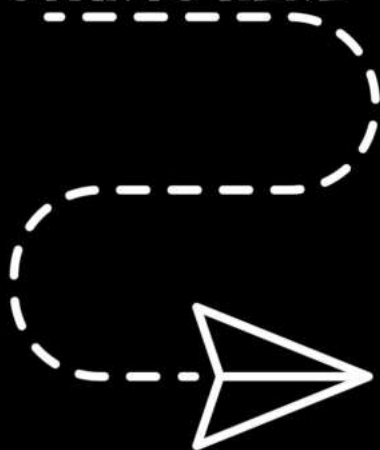
DNR
Indiana Department
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Thursday 25th 6pm



Malachi Parks Band

The Malachi Parks Band is a Southern Indiana group led by singer-songwriter Malachi Parks, known for blending original music with influences from gospel, country, and rock. He's joined by guitarist Dakota Winters, bassist and pianist Mark Oliver, and guitarist Glen Burden—each bringing years of experience and a deep passion for music. Together, they deliver heartfelt, high-energy performances rooted in faith, storytelling, and a genuine connection with their audience.

Thursday 25th 8pm



The Flatline Band

Flatline is a four-piece band from southern Indiana, delivering a powerful mix of rock and country hits from the '80s to today. They play the songs everyone knows and loves, the ones you forgot you missed, along with original tracks that carry a deeper emotional weight. While Flatline has always been rooted in good music and good times, the loss of a close friend brought a new sense of purpose to their journey. Writing and performing their own music became a heartfelt tribute and a way to keep the spirit of their beginnings alive. Featuring Jon Moon, Shawn Collingsworth, Mike Butterfield, and Carl Anderson, Flatline brings a high-energy blend of timeless favorites and meaningful originals to every performance—whether it's a rowdy bar night or a packed summer festival.

Friday 26th 6pm



The Un-Named Band

Taking the stage on Friday, September 26th at 6 p.m., The Un-Named is a five-piece rock band that delivers an unforgettable live experience. With a lineup featuring Danny Kern on lead vocals, Dennis Kemper and Mike Adams on guitars and backing vocals, Ron Neely on bass and vocals, and Bud Jones on drums, the band is known for its energetic stage presence and tight musicianship. Their sound blends powerful vocals, driving guitar riffs, and rich harmonies, creating a performance that appeals to fans of both classic rock and modern hits. Whether you're hearing them for the first time or you're a returning fan, The Un-Named brings a fresh spark to every stage they play. Don't miss their set—it's sure to be a highlight of this year's Persimmon Festival.

Friday 26th 8pm



Vintage

Vintage is a band comprised mostly of current and former Lawrence County residents. Each of the members has played in local bands over the years, but never together as this lineup. The band was formed specifically to perform at the 2023 Persimmon Festival. Vintage intends to stay true to their name by playing covers from guitar-driven eighties bands like Van Halen, Night Ranger, Def Leppard, Metallica, and many others. Everyone in the band has remained musically active over the years in both the local and national music scenes. Members of the band include Brian Grow (lead vocals), Brad Abel (drums), Brad Holland (bass), Tony Fullen (guitar), and Aaryn Martin (guitar). Vintage is looking forward to a hometown show and an evening of great music with lifelong friends.

Saturday 27th

4:30pm



Bloomington Jazz Orchestra

The Bloomington Jazz Orchestra is a distinguished ensemble renowned for its vibrant and sophisticated jazz performances. Based in Bloomington, Indiana, this talented group brings together top local musicians to deliver captivating renditions of jazz standards and innovative original compositions. Their rich sound, characterized by intricate arrangements and dynamic solos, has made them a favorite at festivals, concerts, and community events. With a commitment to excellence and a passion for jazz, the Bloomington Jazz Orchestra continues to inspire and entertain audiences with their engaging and electrifying performances.

Saturday 27th

6pm



King Bee and the Stingers

King Bee & The Stingers, a vibrant six-piece blues, soul, and funk band from Bloomington, Indiana, has been captivating audiences since 2006 under the leadership of harmonica player and vocalist Mark "King Bee" Menefee. Known for their gritty roadhouse blues, the band gained acclaim with several singles distributed by Sony Orchard and their second album, "Don't Move So Fast," released in early 2023. With a dynamic lineup that includes rising star Sarah Menefee as lead vocalist, King Bee & The Stingers have been semifinalists in The Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in 2018, 2019, and 2023. The band's evolving sound, which now incorporates soul, funk, and pop, is bolstered by a talented ensemble of musicians, including recent additions like bassist Jeff Shew and keyboardist Wes Schrimsher.

Saturday 27th

8pm



Endless Summer Band

The Endless Summer Band, based in Indiana, is a dynamic and versatile group known for delivering high-energy performances across the Midwest. Specializing in a wide range of music styles, including pop, rock, country, and dance, they are a favorite choice for weddings, corporate events, and festivals. With their engaging stage presence and ability to connect with audiences, the band consistently creates a fun and lively atmosphere. Their performances make them a sought-after act for any occasion requiring unforgettable entertainment.



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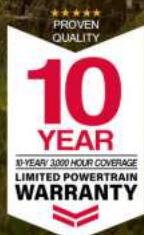


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Persimmon Festival Queen

Passing Of The Crown



Elsi Arthur

September 22nd, 2025 at 7 pm
Main Street Stage



Brandee Perez Avah Cooper Lily Russell Elsi Arthur Marissa Blais Kaylee McPherson Emily Perez Addy Fields

2024 Persimmon Festival Queen And Court

Judging/Crowning Sunday September 14th MHS Auditorium 2pm

Young Hearts, Big Dreams

2024
Junior Miss

Rhylee Blackwell
Laney Wilder
Alaina Cessna
Queen Norah Isom
Hazel Arnold
Paisley Thompkins
Harleigh Reeve



*Who's
Next?*

2024
Little Miss

Front Row
Queen Madelyn Shaw

Back Row
Aubree Davis
Coda Jackson
Sapphire Fintel
Abigail Gratzel
Zoey Maddox
Araya Smith
Marlee Cooper



2024
Mini Miss

Front Row
Queen Charlotte Stallord

Back Row
Austin Cook
Olivia Arnold
Briley Hattabaugh
Brynlee Thompkins
Lydia Cessna
Brezlyn Blake
Hadlee Davis
Maddie Terrell



MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 22 | 6:00PM
MAIN STREET STAGE

Judging Saturday, September 20th MHS Auditorium 2 PM
Crowning Monday, September 22nd at 6 PM on the Main Stage

You're Next!

Persimmon Pageant Process

Queen Registration

Application Pick Up

Lawrence County Tourism Office
533 W. Main Street Mitchell, IN

Available July 28 - August 8

Entry Fee — \$50



Scan Here For
Rules, Requirements, and Application



Persimmon Pageant Process

Little, Mini, Miss Registration

Application Pick Up

Lawrence County Tourism Office
533 W. Main Street Mitchell, IN

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Entry Fee — \$40



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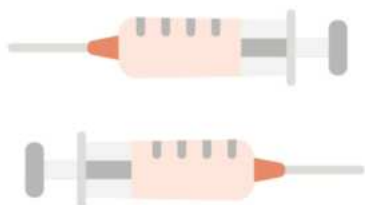


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Past Festival Queens

1950s

1956 - Jane Bruner

1957 - Judy Kelly



1960s



1960 - Sandra Reed

1961 - Vicky Walker

1962 - Patsy Williams

1963 - Janice Matthew

1964 - Carol Cole

1965 - Sandra Wilcox

1966 - Coralee Robinson

1967 - Cindy Acton

1968 - Susie Hatfield

1969 - Jan Worley

1970s

1970 - Gale Briscoe

1971 - Joni Hargesheimer

1972 - Deborah Jereb

1973 - Julie Blackwell

1974 - Kelly Baker

1975 - Patrice Buher

1976 - Carol Edwards

1977 - Susie Wilcox

1978 - Tammie Wilson

1979 - Julie Pace



1980s



1980 - Donita Ramey

1981 - Amy Box

1982 - Missy Brown

1983 - Tracy Mundy

1984 - April Wilson

1985 - Greta Blackwell

1986 - Kellie Allen

1987 - Beth Robison

1988 - Stormi Coulter

1989 - Carrie Robbins

Past Festival Queens

1990s

1990 - Candace Ellis
1991 - Jodi Asbery
1992 - Heather Cahill
1993 - Teresa Rush
1994 - Jennifer Hensley
1995 - Dialevash Sullivan
1996 - Heather Burgi
1997 - Danielle Peets
1998 - Terra Johnson
1999 - Elizabeth Wintczak



2000s



2000 - Diane Cessna
2001 - Jessica Jones
2002 - Jennifer Slone
2003 - Jodi Ann Shapuras
2004 - Caitlin Goldsberry
2005 - Alyssa Super
2006 - Kelsey Terrell
2007 - Arin McIntosh
2008 - Lisa Buschmann
2009 - Katie Burton

2010s

2010 - Betsy Mundy
2011 - Emily Karr
2012 - Brittany Blanton
2013 - Mia Burton
2014 - Anna Kluender
2015 - Madison McNeely
2016 - Kara Parkes
2017 - Sarah Bredeweg
2018 - Callison Blais
2019 - Hanna Pugh



2020s



2020 - No Festival
2021 - Rylan Simpson
2022 - Briley Dicks
2023 - Jorja Lamm
2024 - Elsi Arthur



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Persimmon Pride

A close-up photograph of a slice of dark brown, moist persimmon cake. A dollop of white whipped cream is placed on top of the cake slice. To the left of the cake, a whole, ripe persimmon fruit with a reddish-orange skin and a dark green stem is visible. The background is a light blue and white plaid pattern.

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Pudding Contest

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**3rd
Place
\$200**

PERSIMMON

Novelty Contest

**2nd
Place
\$75**



**3rd
Place
\$50**

Persimmon Pudding & Novelty Dessert Contest Rules

Pudding Submission:

- Must be a 4x4 inch piece
- Must be on a plain 8 or 9 inch white paper plate
- Cover with wax paper or plastic wrap
- No toppings allowed
- Keep your recipe handy—it will be needed later
- Recipes must be on recipe cards (no sheets of paper)

Novelty Dessert Submission:

- Can be anything except cookies
- Persimmon pulp must be a main ingredient
- Recipe must be on a card with the recipe name
- Contestants name must be on the back of the recipe card
- The recipe is required at the time of judging

**Winners from the past two years cannot enter
No entry fee**

**Saturday September 27th, 8am - 11am
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2024 Persimmon Pros

Persimmon Pudding



Susan Tumey

INGREDIENTS

2 CUPS PERSIMMON PULP
2 CUPS SUGAR
3 EGGS
1 1/2 CUPS BUTTERMILK
1 TSP. BAKING SODA
1/4 CUP CREAM, HALF & HALF
1/2 STICK MELTED MARGARINE/BUTTER
1/4 TSP. VANILLA
1 1/2 CUPS FLOUR
1 TSP. BAKING POWDER
1/4 TSP. SALT
1/4 TSP. CINNAMON

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine pulp, eggs, & sugar in a bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, combine buttermilk & soda, mix until it foams up a little.
3. Add buttermilk & soda mixture to pulp mixture.
4. Sift dry ingredients & add alternately with the milk.
5. Add butter & vanilla.
6. Coat a 9x13 inch baking dish or two 8x8 inch dishes with butter or margarine (melt the 1/2 stick butter or margarine in baking dish & then pour in the batter).
7. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Persimmon Novelty

Persimmon Spice Caramels

INGREDIENTS

2 STICKS BUTTER
1 1/2 CUPS SUGAR
1/2 TSP. GROUND CINNAMON
1/2 TSP. GROUND GINGER
1/4 TSP. GROUND ALLSPICE
1 CUP LIGHT CORN SYRUP
14 OZ. CAN SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK
3/4 CUP PERSIMMON PULP

DIRECTIONS

1. Prepare a 9-inch square pan by lightly buttering it or lining it with parchment paper.
2. In heavy 2 to 3-quart saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add sugar and spices: thoroughly blend
3. Add corn syrup, sweetened condensed milk, and persimmon pulp – stirring well after each addition.
4. Continue to cook over medium heat, stirring frequently to prevent scorching, until the temperature of the mixture reaches 240° F (soft ball stage)
5. Remove from heat and pour mixture evenly into the prepared pan
6. When cool, turn candy out of pan and cut into 3/4 inch squares. Wrap individual pieces in 2 3/4 to 3-inch squares of waxed paper. Store in airtight container.



Brittany Purlee

Past Persimmon Pros

1940's

1949 | Evelyn Godbey
1948 | Murl Gaines
1947 | Fannie Lawyer

1950's

1959 | Wavie VanCleve
1958 | Joan Buher
1957 | Edith Terrell
1956 | Evelyn Godbey
1955 | Mary Cummins
1954 | Alyda Beavers
1953 | Centennial Year
1952 | Edith Terrell
1951 | Evelyn Godbey
1950 | Murl Gaines

1960's

1969 | LaDean Boone
1968 | Mary Johnson
1967 | Kathryn Swayze
1966 | Bessie Cooper
1965 | Saranell Eckensburger
1964 | Bessie Cooper
1963 | Wavie VanCleve
1962 | Bessie Cooper
1961 | Evelyn Glearner
1960 | Jean Plew

1970's

1979 | Gail Miller
1978 | Sara Kern
1977 | Eva Powell
1976 | Cheryl Beasley
1975 | Joan Buher
1974 | Nancy Fletcher
1973 | Mike Hardman
1972 | Thelma Brown
1971 | Ruth Lucas
1970 | Doris King

1980's

1989 | Saranell Eckensburger
1988 | Judy Shaw
1987 | Shelba Brinegar
1986 | Cindy Brewer
1985 | Phillis Sears
1984 | Sharon Bowden
1983 | Trudie Dillman
1982 | Thelma Brown
1981 | Bessie Cooper
1980 | Asa Terry

1990's

1999 | Eva Powell
1998 | Diane Rayhill
1997 | Eva Powell
1996 | Eva Powell
1995 | Ruby Hawk
1994 | Eva Powell
1993 | Carl Brown
1992 | Alverta Hart
1991 | Judy Shaff
1990 | Sissy Robbins

2000's

2009 | Eva Powell
2008 | Eva Powell
2007 | Janice Kimble
2006 | Judy Shaw
2005 | Judy Davis
2004 | Beth Doub
2003 | Beth Doub
2002 | Tammie George
2001 | Frances Tolbert
2000 | Lee Purlee

2010's

2019 | Judy Shaw
2018 | Gary Rayhill Jr.
2017 | Judy Shaw
2016 | Cindy Brewer King
2015 | Cindy Brewer King
2014 | Jonna Pemberton
2013 | Cindy Brewer King
2012 | Courtney George McFadden
2011 | Jonna Pemberton
2010 | Eva Powell

2020's

2024 | Susan Tumey
2023 | Lee Purlee
2022 | Susan Marlman
2021 | Jane Root
2020 | No Festival



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Saturday, September 27, 2025

2:00 PM

Registration

OPTION 1. Scan and complete both QR codes

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**OPTION 3. Visit Mitchell Chamber of Commerce
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Rules and Registration



GRAND MARSHAL



Steve Dorsett

We are proud to honor Steve Dorsett as the Grand Marshal of the 78th Persimmon Festival in Mitchell. A lifelong resident and 1971 graduate of Mitchell High School, Steve dedicated more than 40 years to local education —20 years as a Social Studies teacher at Mitchell Junior High and 19 years as Principal at Burris Elementary.

A graduate of Oakland City College with a master's degree and principal certification from Indiana University, Steve has been a steady, compassionate presence in the lives of countless Mitchell students and families. His passion for service continues through his work at Woodville Baptist Church and as a board member for Capstone Ministries, helping support community needs through the Regeneration Store.

Married to his wife, Teri, for 47 years, Steve raised two children, Matt and Katie (Paul) Price, and now enjoys time with his grandchildren, Drew and Emma. Whether gardening, golfing, reading, or cheering on the grandkids, Steve embodies the spirit of Mitchell in every way.

Please join us in celebrating Steve Dorsett as the Grand Marshal of the 78th Persimmon Festival!



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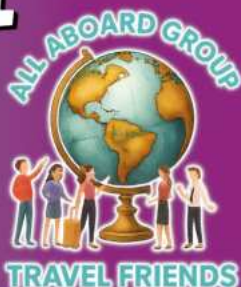
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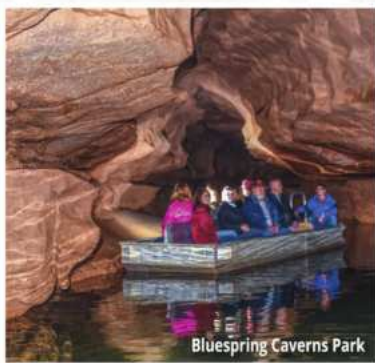
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