

2026

MITCHELL, IN

79th PERSIMMON FESTIVAL

September 19, 21 – 26



*From Generation To Generation...
Our Persimmon Roots
Run Deep!*



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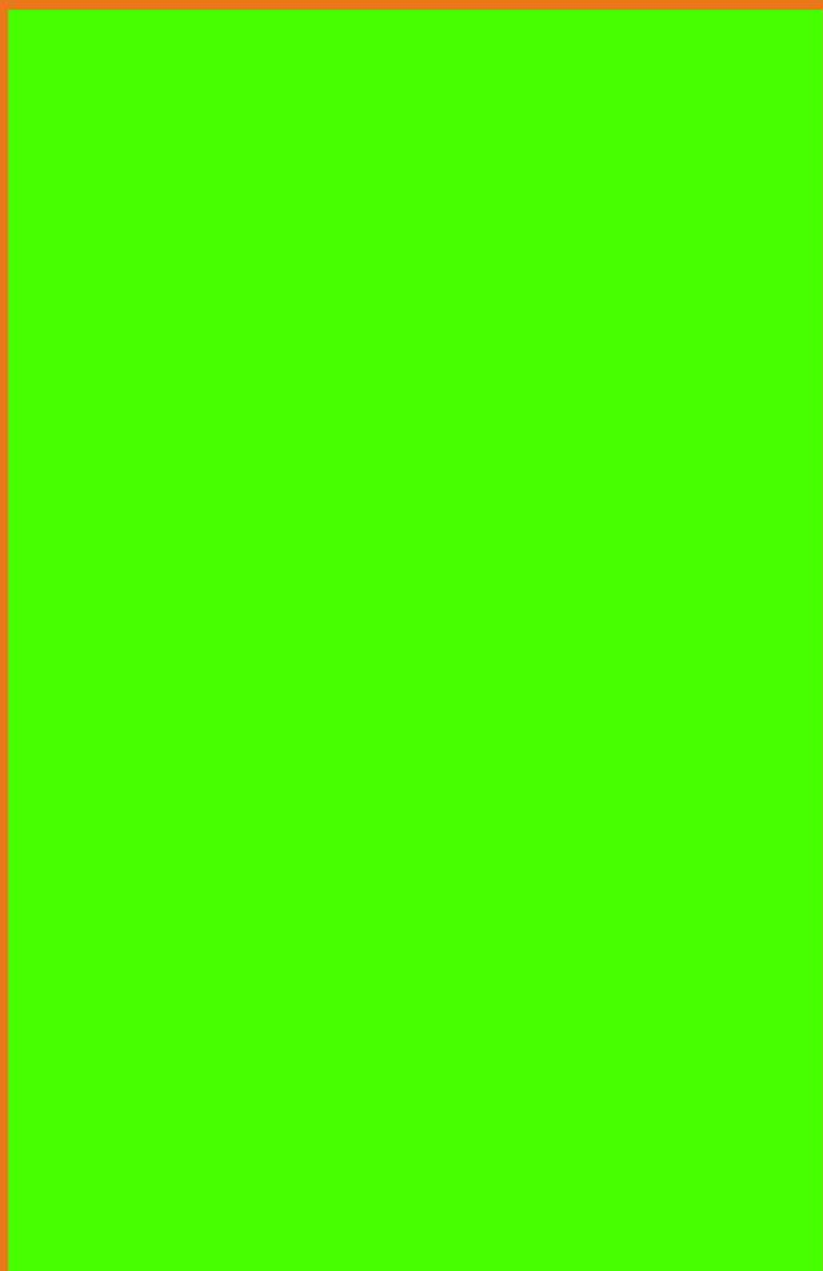
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Mayor's Welcome

It is my honor to welcome you to the 79th annual Mitchell Persimmon Festival. This cherished tradition has brought our community together in celebration of our heritage, our hospitality, and the enduring spirit that defines the City of Mitchell.

Each year, the festival serves as a homecoming for residents, visitors, and families who return to experience the sights, sounds, and flavors that make this event so special. From the aroma of festival food treats to the excitement of the grand parade, the festival reflects the pride we share in our community and the traditions we continue to uphold.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the festival chairwoman Katie Houchin and Co-chairs Jodi Clark and Mike Miller for their exceptional leadership and dedication. Their hard work along with the efforts of the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce, our volunteers, sponsors, civic organizations, and city staff- ensures the continued success of our festival celebration.

Whether you are a lifelong resident, visiting for the first time or returning for another year of memories, I hope you enjoy the events, stage entertainment, carnival midway, and fellowship that make the Persimmon Festival a highlight of our community.

Thank you for celebrating with us as we honor 79 years of tradition and community pride.

Don Caudell II
Mayor, City of Mitchell



Persimmon Festival

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

FROM CROWN TO COVERAGE

JODI CLARK

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FESTIVAL CROWN.

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Welcome

Hello from Persimmon Country and Welcome to the 79th Annual Mitchell Persimmon Festival!

My name is Katie Houchin, and I am honored to serve as the General Chairman for the 2026 Mitchell Persimmon Festival. As a lifelong resident of Mitchell, the last full week of September has always been something I have eagerly anticipated. Our festival is more than just an event- it is a cherished tradition that brings our community together and celebrates the spirit of who we are.

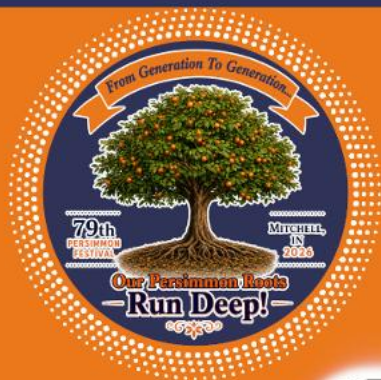
This year's theme, "From Generation to Generation, Our Persimmon Roots Run Deep," reflects the heart of our festival. It honors the generations of volunteers whose dedication and passion have sustained this tradition for nearly eight decades and continues to shape its future. Alongside my chairman, Jodi Clark and Mike Miller, I am incredibly excited to share all that we have been planning over the past year. From entertainment and community events to the food and festivities we all know and love, there will truly be something for everyone to enjoy.

We sincerely hope you'll spend your evenings with us downtown-enjoying the entertainment, indulging in your favorite festival foods, and making memories that will last a lifetime.

We can't wait to celebrate with you on Main!

Katie Houchin





2026 Persimmon Festival Chairpersons



GENERAL CHAIRPERSON **Katie Houchin**

Katie Houchin serves as the General Chairman for the 2026 Mitchell Persimmon Festival. A lifelong resident of Mitchell, Katie has always cherished the tradition of spending time at the festival and celebrating all it brings to the community.

This year's festival theme, "From Generation to Generation, Our Persimmon Roots Run Deep," reflects Katie's desire to honor the generational volunteerism that has allowed the festival to thrive for nearly eight decades. Katie is proud to be a third generation festival volunteer. Her grandfather, Bill Harrison, served as Persimmon Pudding chairman in the 1960's and instilled in her the importance of community involvement and giving back. He also taught her how to appreciate a good persimmon pudding. Her mother, Drucy Burton and Aunt, Candy Isom, chaired the Phi Beta Psi Food tent in the 1980's; and her father, Chris Burton, was General Chairman in 1982. She served as Persimmon Festival Queen chair for 7 years before joining the festival committee. Katie, along with her co-chair, Jodi Clark, will also be the first former Festival Queens to serve as General Chairmen.

Katie is a 2010 graduate of Mitchell High School and earned her Bachelor of Science from Ball State University, followed by a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame. She currently is employed as a SLP at a local skilled nursing facility.

Katie, and her husband, Daniel have been married for 10 years and are busy raising their three children: Rhett, Ryleigh, and Reagan. They reside just west of Mitchell.

Katie extends her sincere thanks to her co-chairs, Jodi Clark and Mike Miller, her family, and the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce for their continued support. She hopes everyone enjoys the festival and creates lasting memories on Main Street!



2026 Persimmon

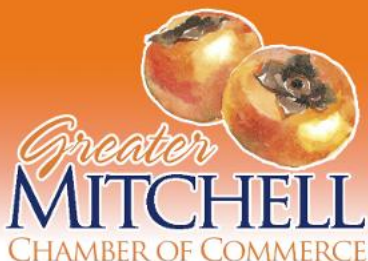


Co-Chair
Jodi Clark

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 18 years working the Phi Beta food booth as a member of the Phi Beta Psi 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.



Executive Branch

Sarah Murphy, Don Caudell II, and Toya Lamm

Chamber Office Manager and Secretary: Krissy Mundy

Festival Chairpersons



Co-Chair
Mike Miller

Michael Miller is proud to serve as the newest co-chair of the Mitchell Persimmon Festival and considers it an honor and privilege to take on this role. A resident of Mitchell since 2014, he relocated to the area to join the team at French Lick Resort, where he currently serves as Director of Table Games and Casino Food & Beverage. With more than 30 years of experience in the casino industry, primarily in Indiana, Michael brings a strong background in leadership, operations, and community engagement. Originally from a small town in Wisconsin, he values the close-knit feel of communities like Mitchell.

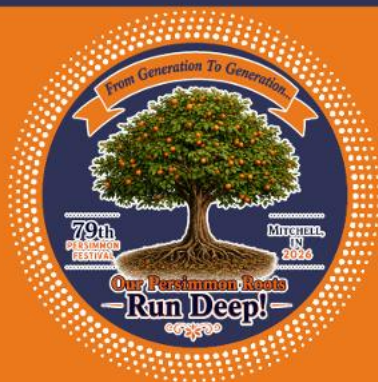
Michael has been married to his wife, Crystal, for 26 years. Crystal is originally from the Mitchell area and is a graduate of Bedford North Lawrence High School. Together they have two daughters, both graduates of Mitchell High School. Their daughter Haley is a teacher in the Mitchell school system and is married to Seth; they have a daughter, Lennon. Their daughter Paige works in the medical field in Indianapolis and is engaged to be married next year. Crystal is currently in the process of opening a new coffee shop, Heartbrew, in Mitchell.

Deeply invested in the community, Michael has coached various Mitchell youth sports teams and enjoys sports and outdoor activities. He has especially enjoyed the Persimmon Festival since moving to Mitchell and believes it is a truly special event that brings the community together—creating opportunities to reconnect with old friends and giving everyone the chance to feel like a kid again.



Board of Directors

Laura Asbury	Toya Lamm	Roy Perez
Tonya Chastain	Sarah Murphy	Alison Piper
Jodi Clark	Marvin Patton	Max Ziebell

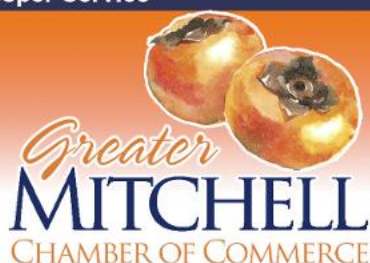


2026

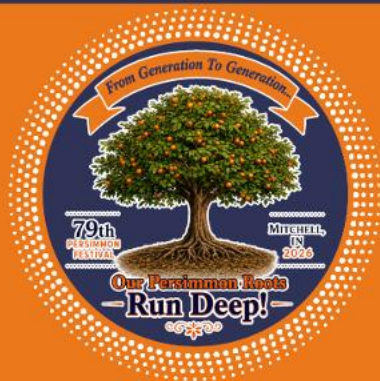
Persimmon Festival

Chairpersons

Event	Committee Chair	Phone
General Chairperson	Katie Houchin	812-278-0200
Co-Chairperson	Jodi Clark	812-583-6119
Co-Chairperson	Mike Miller	
Treasurer	Don Caudell II	812-797-9550
Antique Tractor	Matt Roll	812-276-3637
Armband Sales	Chamber Office	812-849-4441
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
Bingo	Carrie Ritchinson	812-583-9000
Baby Contest	Mackenzie Reeve	812-583-4361
Community Yard Sale	Chamber Office	812-849-4441
Cruise-In	Cody Lamm	812-797-1707
Emergency Equipment Show	Tyler Duncan	812-583-6770
Festival Photographer	Sarah Adams	812-797-0763
Food Vendors	Maren Terrell	812-606-4492
Floats	Abby Karr and Mitch Reed	812-849-3663
Little, Mini, Jr. Miss Pageant	Bobbi Hunter	812-797-3037
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
Pickle Ball Tournament	Matt Sowders	812-583-8850
Queen Pageant	Michele Super	812-675-2361
Quilt Show	Dee Brinkworth	812-675-7419
Road Rally	Missy Little	812-797-7959
Senior Day	Living Well	812-849-6000
Ticket Booth	Chamber Office	812-849-4441
Vesper Service	Daniel Lee	812-788-1461



Check Out
mitchellchamberofcommerce.org
 for member directory



PAST

Persimmon Festival

Chairpersons

2025	Bryan Fountain	1991	Gerald Tolliver
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		



2026 Chamber

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Danny Lee Baker
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Don Caudell II
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El Compadre Mexican Restaurant LLC
Engleking RX LLC
EZ Leasing
Five Star Pro Construction LLC
Flynn & Sons Excavating & Paving Inc.
Foamcraft INC
Friends of Spring Mill State Park
George James
German American Bank
Ginny McMinds
Heidelberg Materials, Cement (Lehigh)
Hoosier Hills Credit Union
Hoosier Uplands
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Quilt Depot
It's About Time Antiques and More
J.A. Benefits LLC
James Insurance Agency INC
Jerry Miller
Johnny's Signs INC
King Family Dentistry
Kirk Veterinary Services INC

La Or Ma Shrine Club
Larry "Bamm" Caudell
Lawrence County 4-H Clubs & Fair Association INC
Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services
Lawrence County Community Foundation
Lawrence County Government
Lawrence County Historical Soc. INC
Lawrence County Tourism Commission
Living Well Home Care
Lucas Indiana Realty & Home Services
MaddieLee Creations
Magical Vacation
Marion Township Trustee
Mark Bryant
Marlow Concrete LLC
Marvin Davis VFW Post 9107
McDonald's
Mid-Southern Savings Bank, FSB
Mikel's 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
Nancy Miller
Nolan & Associates 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

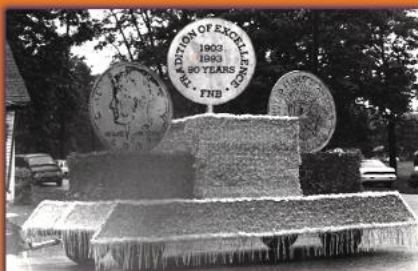
Past Festival Themes

1980s

- 1980 | Hoosier Hospitality
- 1981 | America—The Beautiful
- 1982 | A Hoosier Holiday
- 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

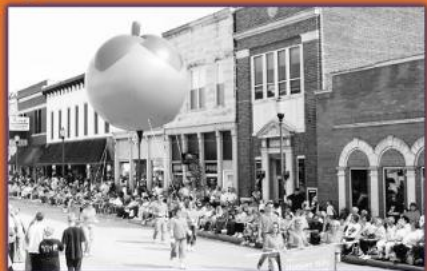


- 2010 | Generation After Generation
- 2011 | Protect & Serve
- 2012 | Small Town Proud
- 2013 | Mitchell Athletics—Past, Present and Future
- 2014 | Shop Local—Buy Mitchell
- 2015 | Celebrating with the Sound of Music
- 2016 | Healing Hands, Helping Hearts
- 2017 | Persimmon City Harvest: Celebrating 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
- 2025 | Persimmon Trees & Tomorrow's Dreams: Grounded in Tradition, Growing for the Future





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Schedule YOUR

2026

Persimmon Festival

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

Festival FUN!

SATURDAY 19th

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 yard sale to the list.

8 AM

Pickle Ball Tournament

Mitchell City Park - 101 Tom Green Dr.

Registration for the 16+ mixed doubles tournament is from 8:00 to 8:45 AM with play starting at 9:00, and the entry fee is \$40 per team.

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 19th

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.

3 PM

Mini, Little, JR Miss Judging

MHS Auditorium - 1000 Bishop Blvd.

Celebrate the charm, confidence, and personality of our young festival royalty as these young ladies take the stage to showcase smiles, style, and hometown spirit. **\$5 Public Admission Fee**

Call (812) 865-0096 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.

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🕒 Monday:	8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tuesday:	8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wednesday:	Closed
Thursday:	8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Friday:	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday:	Closed
Sunday:	Closed



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SUNDAY^{20th}

11 AM

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 Participation Fee. \$5 Admission Fee.

Call (812)-797-3037 for more information.

**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.

3 PM

Queen Contest

MHS Auditorium

Join us for one of the Mitchell Persimmon Festival's most cherished traditions as contestants compete for the title of Festival Queen.

\$5 Admission Fee.

Call (812)-675-2361 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.

MONDAY^{21st}

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
- 1 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.

5 PM
- 9 PM

Main Street Vendor Market

Main Street

Stop by the Main Street Vendor Market Tent at Mimi's to explore a variety of inaugural Bingo event inside the Non-Profit Tent on Monday. Join the fun for a chance to win prizes while supporting local organizations and enjoying a new festival tradition in the making!

6 PM

Non-Profit Tent

Bingo Night - N. 6th Street

New this year, the Persimmon Festival is excited to introduce its inaugural Bingo event inside the Non-Profit Tent on Monday. Join the fun for a chance to win prizes while supporting local organizations and enjoying a new festival tradition in the making!

MONDAY 21st

**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

Mini, Little, Junior Miss Queen Crowning

Main Street Stage

2026 Mitchell Persimmon Festival recognition of Queens and her court.

7 PM

Queen Crowning

Main Street Stage

2026 Mitchell Persimmon Festival Queen and court crowning.

7:30 PM

The Dash

Main Street Stage

End your day with Gospel Night featuring The Dash, bringing uplifting music to the stage. It's the perfect way to enjoy a meaningful evening on Main Street.



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Welcome

to the Persimmon Festival

Meat Orders

Call Eugene Burch

812-295-4540

963 South Maple Street

Orleans, IN 47452

812-865-2727

Store Hours: 7am-10pm

Follow us on Facebook for more updates!



TUESDAY 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 - 2 pm
Call (812) 278-4723 for more information.

11 AM
- 1 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

Pulled Pork & Baked Potatoes

N. 6th Street

Come by and enjoy a pulled pork 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^{22nd}

5 PM
- 9 PM

Main Street Vendor Market

Main Street

Stop by the Main Street Vendor Market Tent at Mimi's to explore a variety of local businesses, handmade items, and unique products from area vendors. It's a great opportunity to shop local, discover new services, and support members of our community. Call the Mitchell Chamber office for questions.

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

Burris Beez, MJHS, and MHS Dance

Main Street Stage

It will be hard not to dance along while the Burris Beez, MJHS, and MHS dance teams are on stage!

7:30
PM

Persimmon Idol

Main Street Stage

Stick around after the school dance teams perform to enjoy a delightful singing showdown among the locals!

WEDNESDAY 23rd

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
- 1 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 Living Well Home Care.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

4:30
PM

Non-Profit Tent

N. 6th Street

St. Mary's serving its popular Italian Dinner, a Persimmon Festival favorite. Stop by and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting a local organization and its community efforts.

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

Come hungry and stroll main street for a variety of food vendors serving up festival favorites

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!

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!

7:30 PM

Flatline Band

Main Street Stage

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

THURSDAY^{24th}

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

- 1 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.

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!

6 PM

Non-Profit Tent

Bingo Night - N. 6th Street

New this year, the Persimmon Festival is excited to introduce its inaugural Bingo event inside the Non-Profit Tent. Join the fun for a chance to win prizes while supporting local organizations and enjoying a new festival tradition in the making!

THURSDAY^{24th}

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

Main Street Vendor Market

Main Street

Stop by the Main Street Vendor Market Tent at Mimi's to explore a variety of local businesses, handmade items, and unique products from area vendors. It's a great opportunity to shop local, discover new services, and support members of our community.

-10 PM

5 PM

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Come hungry and stroll Main Street for a variety of food vendors serving up festival favorites and local treats.

-10 PM

6 PM

Backwoods Bluegrass

Main Street Stage

A Southern Indiana based traditional bluegrass gospel band, known for high-energy, traditional sounds and 90s country covers!

7:30 PM

Rockland Road

Main Street Stage

Hang out by the main stage and enjoy a live performance by Rockland Road!

FRIDAY ^{25th}

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
- 1 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

Non-Profit Tent

N. 6th Street

Cattleman's serving up their steak dinner. Stop by to enjoy a hearty meal while supporting a local organization during the Persimmon Festival.

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^{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 ride!

**5 PM
- 10 PM**

Main Street Vendor Market

Main Street

Stop by the Main Street Vendor Market Tent at Mimi's to explore a variety of local businesses, handmade items, and unique products from area vendors. It's a great opportunity to shop local, discover new services, and support members of our community.

**5 PM
- 10 PM**

Main Street Food Booths

Main Street

Come hungry and stroll Main Street for a variety of food vendors serving up festival favorites and local treats.

6 PM

Vintage

Main Street Stage

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

8 PM

Endless Summer Band

Main Street Stage

Come Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Endless Summer Band performin g at the Persimmon Festival.

SATURDAY ^{26th}

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. Sponsored by Southern Indiana Old Iron. 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)-797-1707 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 ^{26th}

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.**

10 AM
- 8 PM

Main Street Vendor Market

Main Street

Stop by the Main Street Vendor Market Tent at Mimi's to explore a variety of local businesses, handmade items, and unique products from area vendors. It's a great opportunity to shop local, discover new services, and support members of our community. Call the Mitchell Chamber office for questions.

11 AM

Non-Profit Tent

Bingo Night - N. 6th Street

New this year, the Persimmon Festival is excited to introduce its inaugural Bingo event inside the Non-Profit Tent. Join the fun for a chance to win prizes while supporting local organizations and enjoying a new festival tradition in the making!

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 2026 Persimmon Festival with a bang! Join us for the Grand Parade!

SATURDAY ^{26th}

4 PM

Awards Ceremony

Main Street Stage

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

**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 PM

Non-Profit Tent

Bingo Night - N. 6th Street

New this year, the Persimmon Festival is excited to introduce its inaugural Bingo event inside the Non-Profit Tent. Join the fun for a chance to win prizes while supporting local organizations and enjoying a new festival tradition in the making!

**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

45 Drive Band

Main Street Stage

Enjoy the classic rock sounds of 45 Drive Band on the Main Street Stage!

8 PM

The Dynamics

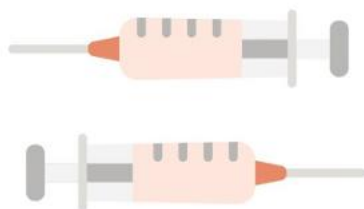
Main Street Stage

Don't miss an awesome live performance by "The Dynamics" to end the 2026 Persimmon Festival with a bang

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FESTIVAL!**



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For a foundation built on community, look to Heidelberg Materials.



heidelbergmaterials.us

Spring Mill Vet Service welcomes everyone to the Persimmon Festival!



Spring Mill Veterinary Service

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springmillvetservice.com

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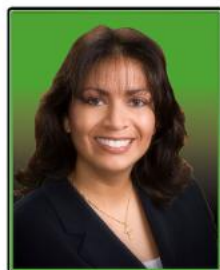
(812) 583-5137



Community Foundation Partnership

LAWRENCE COUNTY
MARTIN COUNTY

cfpartner.org



Hope Flores, CEO

Lawrence County Community Foundation

3315 5th Street | P.O. Box 1235 | Bedford, Indiana 47421

Phone: (812) 279-2215

Martin County Community Foundation

2668 US Highway 50 | P.O. Box 28 | Loogootee, Indiana 47553

Phone: (812) 295-1022

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ReGeneration is a non-profit thrift store that sells only donated items to support Capstone Ministries' efforts to help meet needs that arise in the community.

Since 2006, your donations have helped provide over \$640,000 in assistance to families and organizations in our community!

Thank you for supporting our mission!

Store Hours

Monday - Friday
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Persimmon FOODIE

MAIN STREET FOOD BOOTHS

PHI BETA PSI SORORITY TENT

Persimmon Pudding Available

11 AM - 10 PM

NORTHEAST CORNER OF 6TH
& MAIN STREET

MITCHELL WESLEYAN CHURCH

Persimmon Pudding Available

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

Persimmon Pudding Available

5 PM - 10 PM

NORTHWEST CORNER OF 6TH
MAIN STREET

FOOD TRUCKS & PRIVATE VENDORS

Open Monday, September 21, 2026 – Saturday, September 26, 2026

Food Trucks open 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Food Stands open 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

MAIN STREET

TUESDAY

4:30 PM

PULLED PORK AND
BAKED POTATOES

MITCHELL
WRESTLING

WEDNESDAY

4:30 PM

ITALIAN
DINNER

ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

FRIDAY

4:30 PM

STEAK
DINNER

LAWRENCE COUNTY
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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 19, 2026
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

MONDAY – FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2026
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

TUESDAY – FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2026
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

FOOD TENT



GREAT FOOD.
GOOD TIMES.



SUPPORT LOCAL
STRENGTHEN
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FOR SUPPORTING

MITCHELL!



THRILLS & CHILLS



KIDDIE RIDES

AMUSEMENT RIDE HOURS

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
CARNIVAL OPENS AT 5 PM

SATURDAY
CARNIVAL OPENS AT 12 PM

Make Memories That Last A
Lifetime!

CARNIVAL EXCITEMENT



FUN GAMES



THRILL RIDES

TICKET AND WRISTBAND INFO

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


WRISTBAND NIGHTS
TUES / WED / THURS / FRI
\$30 EACH

ADVANCE SALE COUPONS

Redeem Your Coupon At Any Ticket Booth!

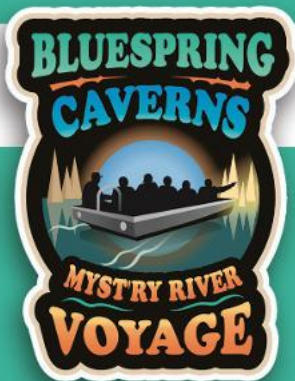
YOUR CHOICE!

1 Wristband (Tue, Wed, Thurs Only)
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



FAMILY FUN AND UNIQUE ADVENTURES

CAVERN BOAT TOUR

on the longest navigable underground river

NATURE AREA TRAIL

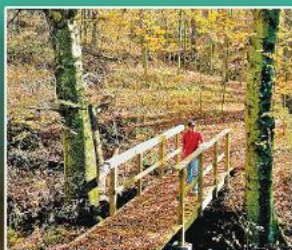
DISCOVER GEMSTONES

at the Myst'ry River Mining Company

GIFT & SOUVENIR SHOP

KAYAK ADVENTURE TOURS

small groups by reservation Aug-Oct



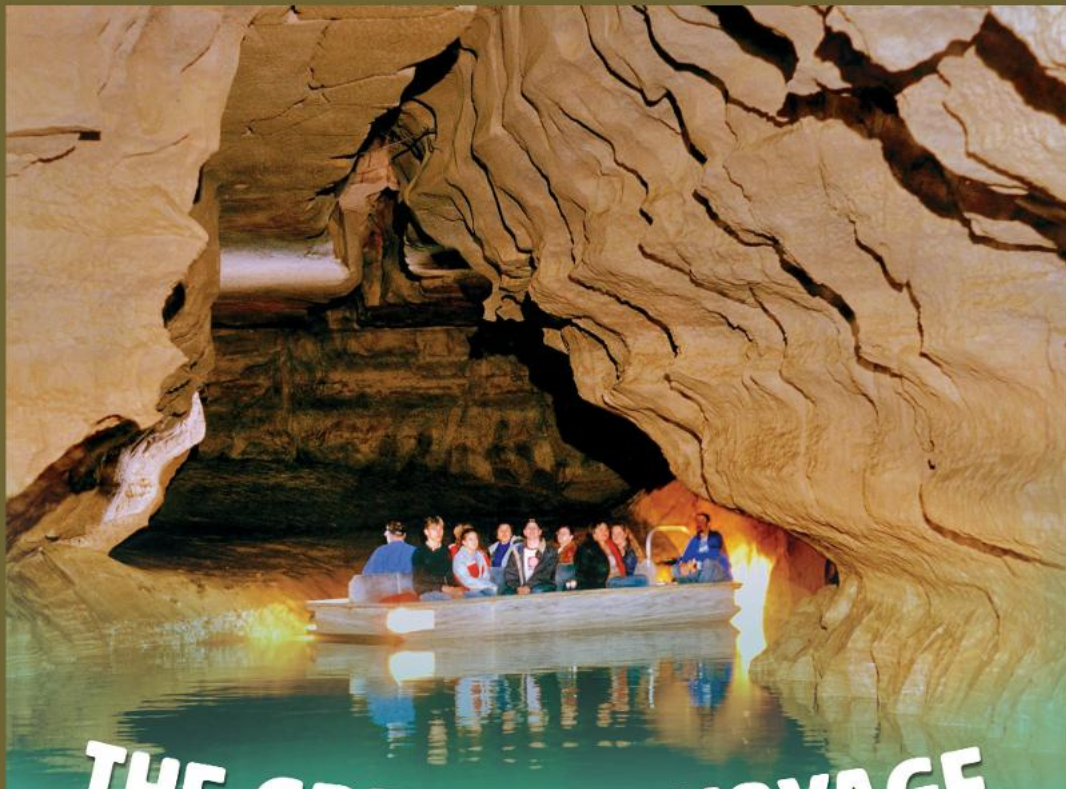
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Featured Exhibits & Attractions

MARKETS

101 Tom Green Dr.
Saturday 19th
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.



50 Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information

Featured Exhibits & Attractions



Arts & Quilts Exhibit

Arts, Crafts, Photos



Mitchell Community
Public Library
Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd, and
Thursday 24th
9am-8pm
Wednesday 23rd and Friday 25th
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 21st
2pm-6pm
Tuesday 22nd- Friday 25th
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.

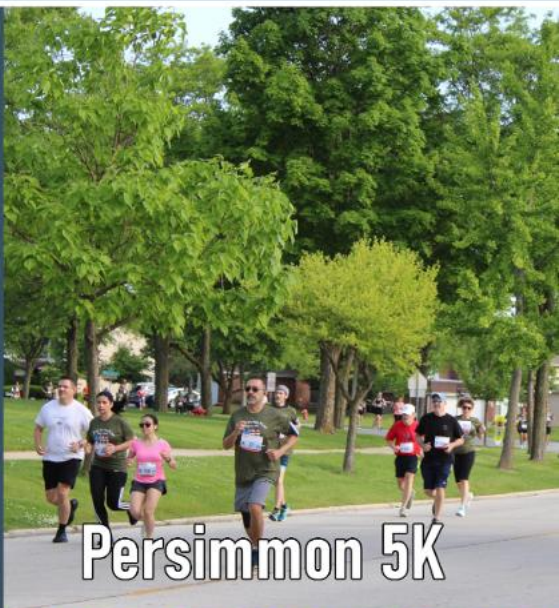
Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information **51**

Featured Exhibits & Attractions

RACES

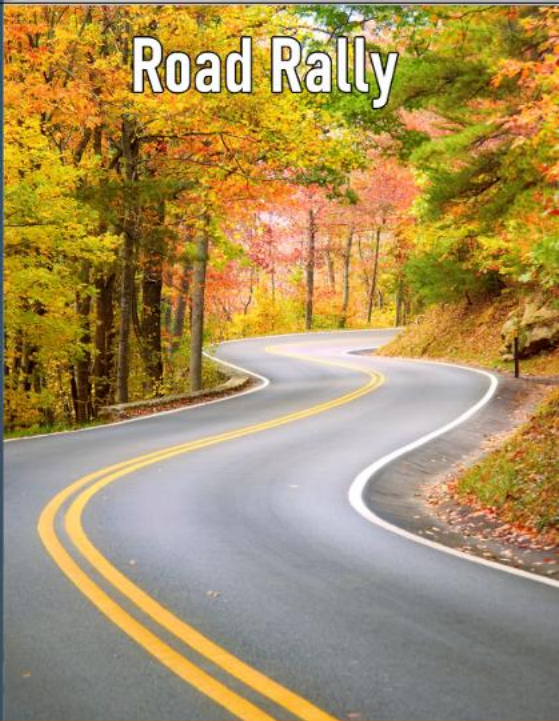
Front MHS Parking Lot
Saturday 26th 8:30am

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.



Front Paking Lot
Mitchell High School
Sunday 20th
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.



Featured Exhibits & Attractions



Spring Mill Candlelight Tour

Spring Mill State Park
Saturday 19th
4pm - 9pm

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 23rd
1pm - 7pm
Saturday 26th
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 26th
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 26th
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 26th
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.



MHS Soccer Field - Hancock Ave.
Saturday 19th
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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Visit persimmonfestival.org for more information **55**

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Main Street Stage Spotlights

MONDAY ^{21st}

6 PM

*Mini, Little, & Junior Miss
Queen Crowning*

7 PM

*Persimmon Festival
Queen Crowning*

TUESDAY ^{22nd}

6 PM

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

WEDNESDAY ^{23rd}

1 PM

Senior Citizen Day

Main Street Stage Spotlights

SATURDAY 26th

1:30 PM

*Grand Parade
Opening Ceremonies*

2 PM

Grand Parade

4 PM

*Persimmon Contest
Winner Announcement*

HEADLINERS

FLATLINE



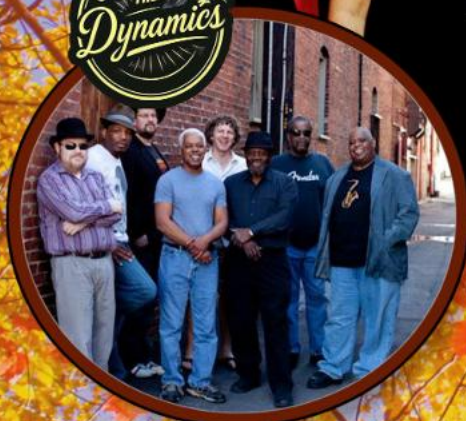
The Dash



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THE
Dynamics



ROCKLAND
ROAD



Headliners Perform On Main Stage

MONDAY
7:30 PM
The Dash

21st

WEDNESDAY
7:30 PM
Flatline Band

23rd

THURSDAY
7:30PM
Rockland Road

24th

FRIDAY
8 PM
Endless Summer
Band
25th

SATURDAY
8 PM
The Dynamics

26th

Monday 21st

7:30pm



The Dash

Join us at the Persimmon Festival for a special Gospel Night featuring uplifting gospel music from The Dash! Come enjoy an evening of faith, fellowship, and powerful music as we gather together for a night of inspiration and worship under the festival lights. Bring your family and friends and be part of a memorable night filled with joy, praise, and community!

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 23rd

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..

Wednesday 23rd

7:30pm



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.

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Thursday 24th 6pm



Backwoods Bluegrass

Join us for a special evening with Backwoods Bluegrass Gospel, bringing their signature blend of traditional bluegrass sound and uplifting gospel music to the stage! With heartfelt lyrics, rich harmonies, and energetic instrumentals, this talented group delivers a performance that audiences of all ages can enjoy. From classic gospel favorites to toe-tapping bluegrass tunes, their music is filled with faith, encouragement, and down-home charm. Gather your family and friends and come enjoy a night of great music, fellowship, and unforgettable entertainment with Backwoods Bluegrass Gospel!

Thursday 24th 7:30pm



Rockland Road

Rockland Road is a nationally recognized family band from Nashville made up of six members of the Martin family, carrying on a rich musical heritage that spans four generations. Their sound blends country, gospel, bluegrass, Americana, and classic influences into a style that is both timeless and uniquely their own. Known for their incredible family harmonies, talented musicianship, and heartfelt performances, Rockland Road has captivated audiences across the country with music that reflects faith, family, and authentic storytelling. Their live shows combine energy, warmth, and outstanding vocal talent, creating an unforgettable experience for music lovers of all ages.

Friday 25th 6pm



Vintage

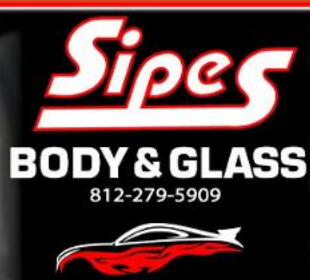
Vintage is a band comprised mostly of current and former Lawrence County residents. Each of the members has played in local bands over the years, but never together as this lineup. The band was formed specifically to perform at the 2023 Persimmon Festival. Vintage intends to stay true to their name by 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.

Friday 25th 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.

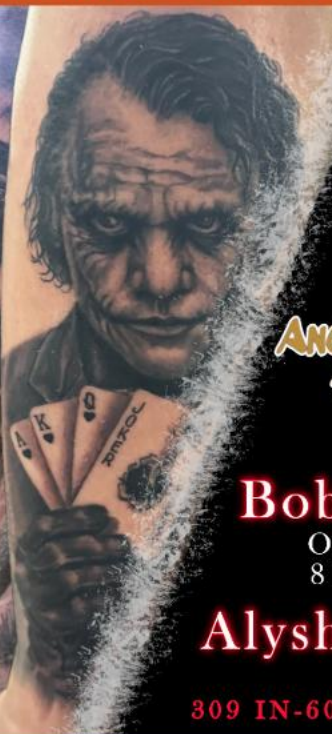



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Saturday 26th

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 26th

6pm



45 Drive Band

45 Drive Band brings an exciting mix of energy, musicianship, and crowd-favorite music to every performance. Known for their strong vocals, talented instrumentalists, and engaging stage presence, the band delivers a show that keeps audiences entertained from start to finish. Blending classic favorites with high-energy hits and rich harmonies, 45 Drive Band creates a fun, lively atmosphere that music fans of all ages can enjoy. Their passion for performing and connection with the crowd make every show a memorable experience filled with great music, good times, and nonstop entertainment.

Saturday 27th

8pm



The Dynamics

The Dynamics delivers a high-energy live music experience built around strong vocals, tight musicianship, and a versatile setlist that keeps crowds engaged from start to finish. Blending soul, R&B, and rock influences, they bring a sound that connects with audiences of all kinds and creates an atmosphere that feels both powerful and entertaining. Each performance is crafted to keep the energy flowing, the crowd involved, and the music resonating long after the final song.



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Persimmon Festival Queen

Passing Of The Crown



September 21st, 2026 at 7 pm
Main Street Stage



2025 Persimmon Festival Queen And Court

Judging Sunday, September 20th MHS Auditorium 3 PM
Crowning Monday, September 21st at 7 PM on the Main Stage

Young Hearts, Big Dreams

2025
Junior Miss

Front Row

Queen Laney Wilder

Back Row

Rhylee Blackwell

Violet Stanley

Kennlyn Baker

Abigail Gratzler

Not pictured: Hazel Arnold



**Who's
Next?**

2025
Little Miss

Front Row

Queen Pailynn Bicketts

Back Row

Charlotte Isom

Marlee Cooper

Ella Burnette

Jincy Doub

Brylee Thompkins

Spencer Driver

Jersey Guthrie

(Not pictured: Kylee Roberts)



2025
Mini Miss

Front Row

Queen Austin Cook

Back Row

Briley Hattabaugh

Elsie Mullis

Jane Isbell

Lillian Arnold

Kaislee Wigley

Olivia Arnold

Valerie Applegate

Winley Lane



MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 21 | 6:00PM

MAIN STREET STAGE

Judging Sunday, September 20th MHS Auditorium 3 PM

Crowning Monday, September 21st at 6 PM on the Main Stage

You're Next!

Persimmon Pageant Process

Queen Registration

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Persimmon Pageant Process

Little, Mini, Miss Registration

Application Pick Up

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533 W. Main Street Mitchell, IN

Available July 27 - August 7

Entry Fee — \$40



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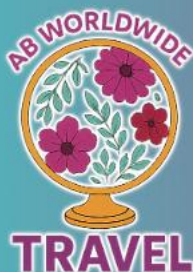
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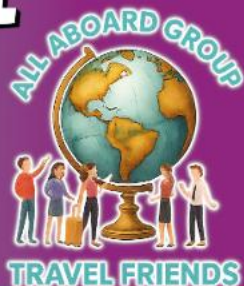
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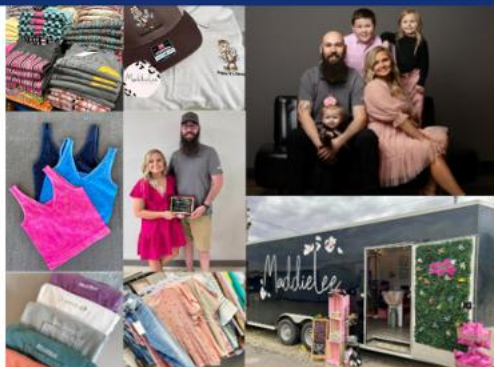
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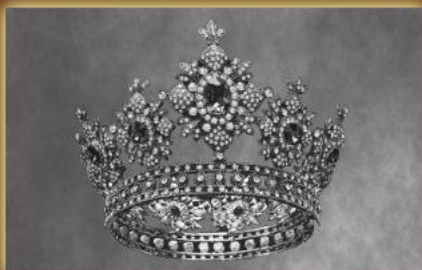
USG sees opportunity in everyone.

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



Julie Pace

1980s



Greta Blackwell

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



Jodi Clark

2000s



Katie Burton

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



Hanna Pugh

2020s



Rylan Simpson

2020 - No Festival
2021 - Rylan Simpson
2022 - Briley Dicks
2023 - Jorja Lamm
2024 - Elsi Arthur
2025 - Addy Fields

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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 disposable 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
\$5 entry fee

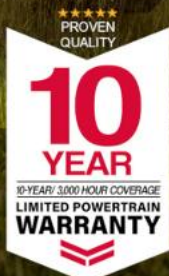
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2025 Persimmon Pros

Persimmon Pudding



Suzanne Patton

INGREDIENTS

2 CUPS PERSIMMON PULP
2 CUPS SUGAR
3 EGGS
1 1/2 CUPS BUTTERMILK
1 TSP. BAKING SODA
1 1/2 CUPS FLOUR
1 TSP. BAKING POWDER
1/2 TSP. CINNAMON
1 TSP. VANILLA
1/4 CUP BUTTER
1/4 CUP WHIPPING CREAM
1/4 TSP. SALT

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine pulp, eggs, & sugar in a bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, combine buttermilk & soda, mix until it foaming ceases.
3. Add buttermilk & soda mixture to pulp mixture.
4. Preheat oven to 325 and put pan in oven with butter in it to melt.
5. Stir dry ingredients together & add to plup mixture.
6. Add in vanilla, melted butter, and cream.
7. Bake until center stops jiggling.

Persimmon Bars with Marshmallow Creme

INGREDIENTS

1 13 OZ. MARSHMALLOW CREME
3 CUPS PULP
1 1/2 KRAFT CARAMEL BITS
1 BOX SUPER MOIST SPICE CAKE MIX

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, mix pulp, caramel bits, and the box of spice cake mix.
2. Pour into a greased 9 x 13-inch baking pan.
3. Bake for 20-22 minutes.
4. When done, let cool for 5 minutes.
5. Spread the marshmallow creme over the top.
6. Broil until the marshmallow topping is lightly browned.
7. Remove and cool before cutting into bars.

Persimmon Novelty



Candie Earl

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 | Violet Cummings
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 | Patty 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 | Philis 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

2025 | Suzanne Patton
2024 | Susan Tumey
2023 | Lee Purlee
2022 | Susan Marlman
2021 | Jane Root
2020 | No Festival



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PERSIMMON FESTIVAL PARADE



Saturday, September 26, 2026

2:00 PM

Registration

OPTION 1. Scan and complete both QR codes

OPTION 2. Visit persimmonfestival.org

**OPTION 3. Visit Mitchell Chamber of Commerce
533 W Main, Mitchell, IN 47446**

Need More Info?

CONTACT:

Laura Asbury (812) 279-0794

Mitchell Chamber of Commerce (812) 849-4441

Rules and Registration



GRAND MARSHALS



Albert and Tonya Chastain have been named Co-Grand Marshals of the 2026 Persimmon Festival Parade in recognition of their decades of dedication and service to the festival and the Mitchell community. Albert became involved with the festival as commercial tent chairman and later served four years as co-chairman before being appointed general chairman in 1971 and again in 1976. He also helped organize numerous festival parades and fondly recalls the volunteers who made them possible, saying, "It has been a privilege to be a volunteer in a community festival that is celebrating its 79th anniversary."

Tonya's involvement with the Persimmon Festival began at an early age through her family's long-standing work with the Phi Beta Psi Persimmon Festival Food Stand. A past food stand chair and former Phi Beta Psi president, she co-chaired the festival in 1999 and 2000, served as festival chairperson in 2001, and helped lead the 75th Persimmon Festival in 2022. Her community service also includes work with the Greater Mitchell Chamber of Commerce and serving as director of Lawrence County Tourism.

Together, Albert and Tonya represent a legacy of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit that has helped shape the Persimmon Festival for generations.



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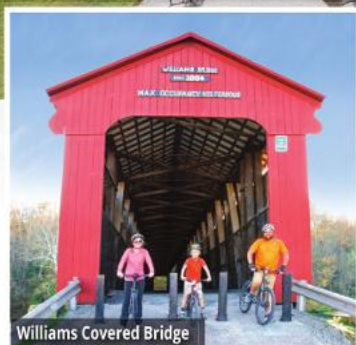
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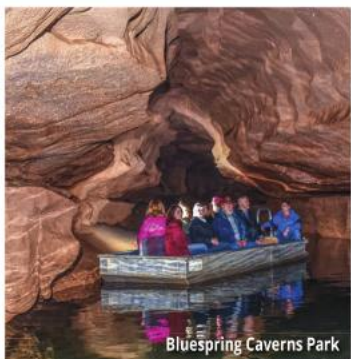


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