

Farmers' Market hosts fall festival

Event features petting zoo, music, scarecrow auction and food

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Davisites will celebrate harvest time Saturday with a pumpkin patch, scarecrow auction, petting zoo, live music, children's activities and lots of refreshments at the Davis Farmers' Market Fall Festival. The free fun runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Central Park, Fourth and C streets.

The Davis Farm to School Connection, a project of Davis Farmers' Market Foundation, is sponsoring the annual Avenue of Scarecrows. Visitors are invited to pose for photos with more than 60 scarecrows, then bid for their favorites in a silent auction that runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The scarecrows were created by Davis students, and proceeds support school gardening and recycling programs.

The pumpkin patch, hosted by members of the Venture Club of Davis and Soroptimist International of Davis, is back by popular demand. There will be free pumpkins, face painting and crafts for children.

Juggler Merrie Mary will perform on the oak tree deck, and crowd-pleasing live music will be provided by the Peter Franklin Band.

The children's area will feature hands-on crafts and science activities, including harvest headdresses and hair braiding by UC Davis sorority Lambda Omicron Xi, and chemistry activities and demonstrations by the UCD Chemistry Club and Explorit Science Center.

Animals include piglets, raptors from the California Raptor Center and farm animals from local 4-H clubs. Also featured are a craft fair, plus gardening, cooking, recycling and composting exhibits from Davis Farm to School Connection.

The third annual Central Park Gardens Open House — from 9 a.m. to noon — will feature a plant sale, benefiting the gardens, where visitors can buy vegetables, flowers and native grasses. Yolo County Master Gardeners will be on hand with eco-friendly gardening advice about selecting plants, composting and least toxic pest management.

All visitors to the gardens, along B Street between Third and Fourth streets, will receive free wildflower seeds to plant now for spring blooming.

This year's Festival Food Faire will feature fresh apple and pumpkin pie by the slice, pumpkin ice cream, and seasonal delights prepared by Market Chef Jaymes Luu. Also featured are tamales and burritos, Indian foods and fresh-popped kettle corn.

Market manager Randii MacNear says the Fall Festival is a favorite of market organizers and vendors alike.

"It's our way of thanking customers for their patronage and support throughout the year," MacNear says.

"We hope everyone comes out for the fun, fabulous food, and the chance to celebrate the harvest with family and friends. It's a chance for everyone to come in costume and make the most of Halloween."

For more information, call the market office at (530) 756-1695 or visit <http://davisfarmersmarket.org>

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