

Festival takes over Beech Acres Park

Greater Anderson Days back for 10th year

By Lisa Wakeland

ANDERSON TWP. - Greater Anderson Days is back for its 10th anniversary this weekend.

There will be rides, games, a community and business expo, the Fireman's Festival and entertainment throughout the weekend, as well as a Kiwanis 5K on Saturday morning.

Ken Kushner, executive director of the Anderson Township Park District, said they start planning for the next festival after the current one ends, and there haven't been any major challenges this year.

"We've been doing it so many years that it's like clockwork from an operational standpoint," he said.

New for this year is the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce's dunking booth, where participants have the chance to dunk Anderson Township Fire Department Chief Mark Ober, Turpin High School Principal Peggy Johnson, Anderson High School football coach Bill Pitts, Anderson Township Administrator Henry Dolive and many others.

The chamber will have a silent auction with tickets to Cincinnati Reds games, Kings Island, Coney Island and Newport Aquarium, as well as gift baskets, spa packages and an iPod.

Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit chamber programs and the scholarship fund, said Brandy Uhlenbrock of the Chamber.

The Fireman's Festival offers a place for children to learn about fire safety from clowns, try on a real firefighter's hat and sit in the front seat of a fire engine.

Poker and blackjack are also available at the Fireman's Festival, as well as their "famous roasted corn."

Proceeds will help the Fireman's Association donate equipment to the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department.

The Community and Business Expo gives businesses and community groups a chance to showcase what they have to offer Anderson Township residents, said Brian Jordan of the park district.

So far, there are 11 community groups and 15 businesses participating in the expo, and Kushner said people are still trying to get a spot at Greater Anderson Days.

At the Huff Realty booth, there will be a drawing to win a playhouse, and the Wall of Honor, which shows names and photos of local men and women in the military, will be on display.

Other proceeds from the festival will go toward the Park District's playground fund, and Jordan said they're currently working on the Beech Acres Park playground.

The weekend comes to a close with a fireworks display by Rozzi at 10 p.m. on Sunday, July 27, compliments of the Beechmont Automotive Group.

Kushner said close to 60,000 people attended last year, and expects the same numbers this year.

"I love seeing all the people coming out (to Greater Anderson Days) and having a good time," Kushner said. General admission is free, but ride tickets and food vary in price.



PROVIDED. SUBMIT PHOTOS TO: Children check out the games offered at last year's Greater Anderson Days festival.