

CHANGES Affecting The Pumpkin Derby

The Pumpkin Derby is a new Pumpkinfest event this year. As typical when doing something new, the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray, and the Pumpkin Derby is no different. Several changes have been made to the Derby that will affect racers and spectators alike.

First, and most importantly, the weight of the pumpkin racer has been reduced from 30 to a maximum of 20 pounds, including wheels and axles. In so doing, building and decorating pumpkin racers will be much easier, particularly for the youngsters.

The Derby Pit Crew is pleased to announce that a supply of 15-18 pound pumpkins has been donated by Mr. Bob Spear and Mr. Buddy Brown of Nobleboro for Pumpkin Derby racers. Racers can pick them up at the Pumpkin Derby Pit Stop at The First Bankcorp in Damariscotta on Friday and Saturday, October 7 and 8, from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., when the Pit Crew will be there. Racers and their families are reminded not to park in The First's parking lot when coming to the Pit Stop Tent, so as not to inconvenience their bank customers.

Most materials required to build a pumpkin racer can be found locally, except for the recommended 5 inch wheels. While racers are not required to use 5 inch wheels, the Pit Crew has purchased a supply for those who are having difficulty finding inexpensive wheels and don't have a skateboard or roller skates at home [that they can borrow wheels from]. A limited supply of the 5 inch wheels will be available at the Pumpkin Derby Pit Stop, at cost (\$12.50), on Friday and Saturday afternoon. The Pit Crew also will have their axle jigs to assist racers drill axles and assemble their pumpkin racers.

There is also a change to the location of the semi-final and final races. Initially scheduled for the top of Main Street, in the interest of safety, all races will be conducted at Weatherbird's Hill at Elm Street Plaza. Depending on the final number of racers, the Semi-finals and Grand Championship races may take place earlier than initially scheduled.

On Saturday, October 7, parade goers are encouraged to stop by the Pit Stop Tent before or after the parade and watch the racers being built or, better still, build a racer for Sunday's race -- if there are still slots available.

The first heat in the Youth Division will begin at 8:00 a.m. All racers should be at the starting line then to have their racer weighed and pick up a race number and pole position. Spectators are encouraged to drop by throughout the day to watch the preliminary heats, and cheer on the Division winners in the Grand Champion race