Committee: SenecaFest could have different feel this year

BY ERIC SPROTT
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — More than half a year out from the event, the city of Seneca is already starting the preparations for its 11th annual SenecaFest.

And following a recent meeting of city council's events committee, the event seems set for a transformation, with a focus on three nights of music.

The Memorial Day weekend event, long held in both the downtown area and Gignilliat Field, seems to be moving exclusively to the latter, according to city events coordinator Riley Johnson.

"I think the general consensus is to move everything to Gignilliat, and we thought about tweaking it a little bit this year," he said.

In the early stages, that includes not incorporating the city's celebrated and award-winning "Cruzin' on Main" event into the festivities, instead letting it stand on its own during the first Saturday of the month as scheduled.


Johnson

And with no barbecue cook-off, Johnson suggested the new way to go may be a "battle of the bands" event on Friday night featuring largely rock bands, followed by country music on Saturday night. That would be preceded by Jazz on the Alley on Thursday night, offering three genres in as many days.

"The barbecuers are gone, and it's more of a music fest now if you think about it," he said.

A wrestling show was also brainstormed during the recent meeting, and Johnson is hoping to be able to announce a full list of events by Thanksgiving.

During a special called city council meeting — which will be preceded by council's regularly scheduled work session at 6 p.m. tonight — approval is expected to be given to make offers to any bands for the Saturday night show.

Meanwhile, the city's free Halloween on the Green event is set for 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at Norton-Thompson Park and Ram Cat Alley. Johnson said several churches will also be on hand doing trunk-or-treats while Alexander and council members hand out candy.

The United Way will also be on hand helping give out candy and cooking hot dogs.

The city is still in need of donations of candy to hand out, and those interested in donating can call city hall at (864) 885-2700 and ask to speak to Johnson.

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