



FILE PHOTOS

Pat and Andy Barnett look at a bag of apples at the Hollifield's Orchard stand while waiting to buy a bushel of apples at the South Carolina Apple Festival in Westminster in 2019.

SC Apple Festival returns for 60th annual celebration

BY ANDREA KELLEY
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WESTMINSTER — The South Carolina Apple Festival will be celebrating its 60th annual gathering when it returns this time next month, making a comeback after a virtual celebration took place last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are trying to do all things special this year," Jane Suttles, president of the Apple Festival Committee, told *The Journal*. "We're excited about our shirts, we're excited about how we're bringing the street dance back



This year's South Carolina Apple Festival is scheduled to run from Sept. 7-11.

this year."

In celebration, the festival will stay open late for the street dance, and Funk Factory will also make

an appearance during the event.

The festival is scheduled to run from Sept. 7-11. Last year's festival was canceled due to COVID-19, so this year will be extra special, Suttles said.

Cecil Sandifer, one of the people who organized the first Apple Festival, will act as grand marshal, Suttles said. All apple growers are also invited to be grand marshals during the festival.

So far, Ables Orchard, Chattooga Belle Farm, Gnat Hill Orchard and Farm and Hollifield's Orchard are all planning to attend.

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"We're just looking forward to it. I hope we have a good crowd there, which I'm sure we will," Reba Butts from Gnat Hill said. "After missing a year, people are ready to be out and about."

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

The festival will kick off in Westminster on Tuesday, Sept. 7, with the Rotary golf tournament, followed by the Chattooga River float on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

"These are things that we've had in the past and we're so excited that they are going to be back with us and it's going to be normal," Suttles said.

The annual baking contest is Sept. 9, followed by the Apple Dumplin' children's pageant and the Miss Apple Festival pageant. The pageant will be less formal this year, Suttles said, and the participants will be modeling in sportswear instead of formalwear.

"That's a little bit different, and we're excited about that," Suttles said. "Hopefully it will be more affordable for girls to be in it, too."

On Sept. 10, visitors can browse arts and crafts and listen to live entertainment starting

at 11 a.m., and the Rotary will host its luncheon that afternoon. The parade begins at 5 p.m.

People who want to participate in the parade should bring their floats to West Piedmont Street, and the parade director will place them in line. No pre-registration is required, and Suttles encourages community members to participate.

Funk Factory will close out the evening with a performance and street dance from 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 11, will feature vendors and live entertainment until 5 p.m.

"Music, food, arts and crafts, kiddie rides, the parade, children's activities, quilt show, and of course, the classic car show," Suttles said. "We're back."

Festival goers can also head over to the Westminster Championship Rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m.

Suttles thanked the city of Westminster for helping the committee with the festival.

"It takes a lot of work, and it takes a lot of people working together," Suttles said. "Right now, everything is looking good for a great Apple Festival."