

Hoosick to Make a Hullabaloo: Music and Arts Festival Expands on Pumpkinpalooza

By Chris Mays

HOOSICK, N.Y. — The event of the fall is fast approaching.

Hoosick Hullabaloo, the music and arts festival which expands upon the community's previous Pumpkinpalooza celebrations, will be held throughout Hoosick Sept. 25 to 27.

"It used to only be a one-day event," said Aelish Nealon, executive director at HAYC3 or Hoosick Armory Youth Center and Community Coalition. "It's more arts and music as well."

Most of the festival's programming will take place at the armory, Wood Park and the town's athletic fields. Schedules with times will be released soon.

Friday, Sept. 25, will see live violin performances, Glow Balls in the Falls Night Golf and live music at Brown's Brewing. Newly painted benches will be unveiled as part of the HAYC3 Painting Hoosick project.

"These benches were out in the community," said Nealon, showing some benches where brush strokes were recently applied. "We'll polyurethane them and then put them back out."

Each bench will feature different designs and colors. A map will be made up, showing just where the benches can be found.

Saturday, Sept. 26, is jam-packed with activities and programming. An acoustic breakfast cafe, 5K road race, gnome scavenger hunt, wagon rides, human foosball, pet parade, chowderfest, medieval combat demonstration and "plein air" art show are planned, with opportunities to eat food and hear live music at different venues. "Plein air" is a French phrase referring to art that is created in open air or outdoors.

Decorated lamps and structures will be lit up during the festival's illumination parade and stroll on Saturday, Sept. 26. Altogether, 36 lamps were given to various artists.

"We'll have them (lamps) throughout the community and in area businesses and some here," said Nealon, standing inside the armory. "An illuminated stroll map will be given out after the parade. Businesses are keeping them on with a timer at night so all these different lamps will be illuminated."

A "blues grass" brunch and kids' "plein air" paint out are scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 27. Panels of quilt will be pieced together and shown to the public during the Hoosick community quilt unveiling. Seventy-five panels were submitted from local quilters.

"It's a summer project we worked on," said Nealon.

The community art projects are meant to spark creativity and fun, but there's also a unifying aspect. Anyone can participate and Nealon has seen some intergenerational collaboration.

"There's a lot of great things that HAYC3 does but I think these community art projects definitely create community connectedness," said Nealon. "That's the intention."