

Dick Goddard

49TH ANNUAL

WOOLLYBEAR

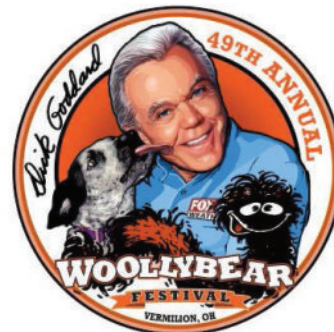
FESTIVAL

VERMILION, OH



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SCAN ME



49th WOOLLYBEAR FESTIVAL SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH VERMILION, OHIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The Vermilion Chamber of Commerce
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Financial Associate
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I am here to help provide the guidance you need to live the life you want.

28304 R7-20



“Be Kind to All”

The new season is upon us... ushering in the crisp fresh air, leaves transitioning into a canvas of burnt orange, reds and yellows, football games, high school marching bands, apple cider, caramel apples and WOOLLYBEARS!

Woollybear 49 is here! It is a bitter-sweet year as our founding Woollybear father, Dick Goddard went to the “great theme park in the sky.” Goddard spoke of this theme park on many occasions. He would say to me, “Dee, I am penciled in with God. We all are. We just don’t know when.” His beloved fans, friends and family never wanted that day to come, but it did, August 4th in 2020, the year the 48th Annual Woollybear went into hibernation and postponed due to Covid. Goddard peacefully made his journey to that “great theme park in the sky.”

Although, many of our hearts hurt for the loss of this great legend, we knew he would want us to continue his legacy. We will continue to be the voice for the 4-foots and fight for them through Goddard’s Law...we will continue the Woollybear Festival to bring thousands together for a day so all can be a kid again and to spread Goddard’s message “Be Kind to All.”

So, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 49th Annual Woollybear Festival. Let us honor the memory of Dick Goddard and his legacy on Woollybear Sunday and every day!

Be Kind to All!

~Sandy aka “Dee”

Sandra Coe

Executive Director

Vermilion Chamber of Commerce



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THE WOOLLY BEAR FESTIVAL IS HAPPENING IN VERMILION 10/10/2021

What will we have? A severe or mild winter? Ask the Woolly Bear!!

Come to Vermilion and enjoy all the activities!



Severe Winter



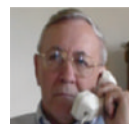
Louise Woehrle, Broker



Mild Winter



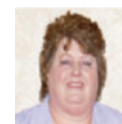
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Todd Bokulich
440-396-9849

OCTOBER 10TH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00am-10am:** ACE MOLAR BAND w/ FOX 8 TODD MEANY (Main Stage)
- 9:00am:** YMCA ANNUAL WORLD’S GREATEST KIDS’ RACE (Registration @ VHS Stadium 8am)
- 10:00am:** WOOLLYBEAR 500 CATERPILLAR RACE PRELIMINARIES WITH LIL’ JOHN (Register behind main stage 8am-9:45am) (Main Stage)
- 10am-12pm:** ROADHOUSE BAND (Victory Park Gazebo)
- 11:00am:** KING AND QUEEN WOOLLYBEAR COSTUME JUDGING (Main Stage) (Register behind the main stage 8am-9:45am)
- 12:00pm:** ANIMAL/PET WOOLLYBEAR COSTUME JUDGING (Main Stage) (Register behind the main stage 8am-9:45am)
- 1:30pm:** WONDERFUL, WACKY WOOLLYBEAR PARADE FEATURING FOX 8 TV PERSONALITIES...HIGH SCHOOL BANDS ...VINTAGE AUTOMOBILES... ANIMALS...BEAUTY QUEEN’S ...FLOATS... MAJORETTE GROUPS...AND MUCH MORE.
- 3:30pm-5pm:** ROADHOUSE BAND (Victory Park at the Gazebo)
- 3:45pm:** WONDERFUL WACKY WOOLLYBEAR PARADE AWARD CEREMONY (MAIN STAGE) (After the Woollybear Parade)
- 4:00pm:** FINALS OF WOOLLYBEAR 500 CATERPILLAR RACE AND OFFICIAL WOOLLYBEAR (Main Stage)
- 4:45pm-5pm:** WINTER WEATHER PREDICTION BASED ON THE COLORS OF THE WOOLLY-BEAR (Main Stage)

THE FOX 8 TENT NEAR THE MAIN STAGE

(spin the wheel to win Woollybear tees and more)

OHIO LOTTERY TENT NEAR THE MAIN STAGE LOTS OF FOOD BOOTHS, MERCHANT SALES, WOOLLYBEAR MARKETPLACE, WOOLLYBEAR T



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Woollybear Festival Comes Out of Hibernation!

By Michael Fitzpatrick
mfitzpatrick@morningjournal.com

Want to get a sneak peek at what the upcoming winter weather forecast is looking like? Make your way out to Vermilion on Oct. 10 for the 49th annual Woollybear Festival, which according to organizers is the largest one-day festival in the state.

The event features live music, food, vendors, a parade, costume contests, the famous Woollybear 500, and other family fun.

The festival was in hibernation in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic but makes its return this year.

The festival started in 1973 in Birmingham, Ohio, and drew about 200 attendees that year. By the early 1980s it had outgrown Birmingham and moved to Vermilion in 1981.

Legend has it that the severity of the upcoming winter directly corresponds to the thickness of the orange stripe on the woolly bear, a smallish brown and orange caterpillar. The projected winter weather is announced at the end of the festival.

The late legendary Cleveland TV weatherman Dick Goddard was the mastermind of the event.

For years, Goddard was heavily involved in the festival, and his former longtime employer FOX 8 is still a major sponsor of the event. Goddard died in August 2020.

His daughter, Kim, will attend this year's event and is slated to sing the national anthem prior to the Woollybear 500 as well as serve as parade grand marshal.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's a wacky, fun festival where everybody can be a kid for the day. It's free family fun," said Sandra Coe, the executive director of the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce, and daughter of the late Maureen Coe, one of the original organizers of the event. The Woollybear Festival was originally started by the Birmingham Elementary School PTO, of which Maureen Coe was an active member.

Goddard came up with the idea for the festival in the early 1970s. He told longtime TV personality Neil Zurcher about it and Zurcher told his then-wife, who was a secretary in the Birmingham Schools, of the plan. It was Zurcher's then-wife who approached the Birmingham PTO with the idea, Coe said.

"At one of the PTO meetings Neil Zurcher's wife was like there is this guy



Dick Goddard from WJW that has this idea do you guys want to do it, and they were like yeah," recalled Coe.

Sandra Coe was just 2 years of age the parade's first year, she said, and she hasn't missed a parade since.

"The parade was so small it went around twice and a semi went through by accident, but hey, that it made it bigger," Coe said.

Vermilion, which has a population of 11,000, sees that number swell to more than 100,000 the day of the event, according to Coe.

"We're definitely bursting at the seams," she said. "It's organized chaos."

Registration for Woollybear 500, where children can race woolly bears, starts at 8 a.m. behind the main stage, which is located by Victory Park near Ohio and Main Street. The prelims for that event start at 10 a.m.

It's also at that location where one can sign up their child for the King/Queen Woollybear costume contest. The winners of the kids' costume contest are named that year's king and queen. The judging for king and queen contest is slated for 11 a.m. There is also a pet/animal costume contest, which will be judged at noon.

The Wacky Woollybear Parade, which features high school bands, FOX celebrities, beauty queens, vintage cars and more steps off at 1:30 p.m., but the streets of Vermilion will be shut down to traffic by 12:30 p.m., said Coe.

Coe recommends folks arrive early and stay until the end. The best place to park is at Vermilion Middle School, 5355 Sailorway Drive. There is a fee to park, but all the money goes to the Prom-to-Dawn, for the high school prom.

"They shuttle you in and they shuttle you back. That's the best place to park," said Coe.



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Woollybear Sunday

October 10th 9am-5pm • Downtown Vermilion, OH



Woollybear Parade best Woollybear theme wins:
1st \$300, 2nd \$150 3rd \$50

The Woollybear 500 Caterpillar Race, Animal/Woollybear look-a-like costume contest and KIDS Woollybear costume King & Queen Contest

(Registration day of the event 8am behind the main stage at the corner of Main and Ohio St). Free Woollybear tee to participants (ONE PER PERSON, not per event)

YMCA World's Greatest Kids Race Registration 8am at the Vermilion Sailors Stadium.

Here is the link that takes folks right to the Chamber's Woollybear Page to sign up for the Wonderful Wacky Woollybear Parade, Food And Marketplace vendor
<https://www.vermilionohio.com/woollybear-festival/>

www.vermilionohio.com
440.967.4477



Come and Enjoy the Woollybear Parade

Vermilion's Woollybear Parade is one of the largest parades in the state of Ohio. It starts at 1:30 pm and lasts approximately 2 hours.

Please remember streets will close at 12:30pm so plan accordingly.

Featuring many radio and television personalities including Dick Goddard and the Fox8 News Team.

Parade participants include: Woollybear kids and pets, many marching bands with nearly 2,000 musicians radio and TV personalities vintage automobiles, floats animals, festival queens clowns and much more!

Parade heads east on Liberty Ave., starting at Grand St., then turns right on Sandusky St., then right onto South St., ending at Decatur St.

There are two Woollybear Festival areas in the center of historic downtown Vermilion, Ohio. One is at Victory Park on Rt. 60 (S. Main St.) north of Ohio St. The second is in Exchange Park at the corner of Rt. 60 (N. Main St.) and Rt. 6 (Liberty Ave.). The Woollybear Festival areas consist of entertainment, food booths, craft booths, and merchant sales. Woollybear T-shirts, Woollybear sweatshirts, and Woollybear hats will be available at the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce stand. Various entertainers are at the main stage throughout the day. Parade commentary by Dick Goddard of Fox 8 occurs at the reviewing stand. See VermilionOhioNews.com for Woollybear Festival updates.



Get Your T-shirts

Vermilion Chamber's 2021 Woollybear tees will be for sale in the chamber booth by the main stage. \$20 each with sizes small to 3XL. Created by is Szabo Apparel. The proceeds from the sale of this t-shirt will be donated by the Vermilion Chamber to the Dick Goddard Animal Foundation.

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