

## Special Events Commission

### Proposed Events for Calendar 2021 and beyond

The Special Events Commission (SEC) is proposing the following changes to our typical event calendar. Approval for the proposals are being sought due to the Village's decision to permit Arlington AlFresco to happen again in 2021 and likely into future years. The SEC has been a willing partner with the Village and are happy to modify our event schedule for the best interest of the residents and businesses of the Village. To minimize disruption of other "events" hosted by other organizations in the Village, we seek to keep the same date(s) we have been utilizing for decades:

**Summer Harvest:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 at Harmony Park

**Autumn Feast:** October 2, 2021 in same location of Mane Event

**Tree Lighting:** Friday, November 26, 2021 at North School Park

**Hearts of Gold:** Saturday, February 12 or 19 2022 depending on availability

We fully understand that any proposals will be subject to the State of Illinois guidelines and subject to cancellation. With Village approval, any planning we conduct for this year could be used for future years should cancellation be necessary. We simply need to secure the dates and locations and continue planning and scheduling. We anticipate pent up demand for banquet venues, bands, entertainers and feel the need to "pencil things in".

The SEC has been integral to the success of Mane Event for 20+ years in mid-August and AlFresco precludes this from happening. However, we request to keep the date we have been using. Mane Event and Autumn Harvest have been extremely popular events and our planned proposal simply flip-flops the dates. It would be impractical for the SEC to have a Mane Event type event late September and then have Autumn Harvest the first weekend in October. This is the reason for the request to keep our dates as we have had them.

#### **Summer Harvest, August 14, 2021 at Harmony Park**

AlFresco was a huge success and the SEC wanted to do something to enhance that experience on Saturday, August 14, 2021. The concept is to have a family friendly event in Harmony Park and perhaps adjoining streets. This event would replace Autumn Harvest and the location needs to be moved from North School Park due to the overlapping time commitments for National Nights Out. This would likely be held during the day to attract people to downtown when the restaurants would ordinarily be slow. We envision a variety of activities including face-painters, balloon twisters, craft tables, petting zoo, hayride and an activity to replace the scarecrow building contest. This event would be done in conjunction with the Park District and Village service groups as we always have done for past Autumn Harvest events.

Summer Harvest would be budget neutral with the funds budgeted for Autumn Harvest.

#### **October Feast, Saturday, October 2, 2021 (or the earliest weekend after the dismantling of AlFresco)**

This would be the equivalent of Mane Event but held in the fall at the cross section of Campbell and Vail. Envision a band, food booths (hence the emphasis on *October Feast*). This would NOT be a fund-raiser for the SEC or any other organization and would then permit us to provide booth rental costs to the restaurants at a significantly lower price-point than has been offered over the past several years. We have reached out to a band and have been told that they are now being approached for the fall and *it is*

*important that we secure a date as soon as possible.* The band has us on their calendar but we need you to confirm that we can move ahead with planning. Note: it is possible that we could expand into a two day event in future years. This event would be done in conjunction with the Police, Fire and Public Works that we have partnered with for past Mane Events.

OctoberFeast would be budget neutral with the funds budgeted for Mane Event.

**Tree Lighting, Friday, November 26, 2021**

The Tree Lighting would take place at North School Park as it has every year with similar format working cooperatively with the Park District. Singers, trolley cars, the Park District decorations and speeches along with the customary count-down to the tree lighting.

Note that the SEC was at the forefront of having a virtual tree lighting in 2020. We take our volunteer responsibilities seriously and figured out a way to entertain the community.

Tree Lighting would be budget neutral to that approved.

**Hearts of Gold, Saturday, February 12 or 19, 2022**

The Hearts of Gold Banquet recognizes those in our community who go above and beyond. This year, we held a virtual banquet since the SEC felt it was important to understand that with or without a pandemic, our community stays involved. In 2022, we hope to bring back the same as previous years, award recipients, speeches, dinner and overall good feelings. However, due to the backlog of weddings and special gatherings, it is important to book a date now if we hope to have an event. We are going ahead and reaching out to Rolling Green to ascertain availability.

Hearts of Gold budget is yet to be determined.

**Spring Sweep, Saturday, April 30, 2022**

This event was a very popular event for the community and could only be held with access to a parking lot like the RaceTrack. Clearly this is now an uncertainty. Since electronics can now be put to the curb for trash pick-up, some of the need goes away. The SEC will determine our financial needs for this event before the next budget is confirmed.

Without your support and that of the Village Board of Trustees, none of these would happen. We continue to pursue our mission of providing family-friendly events for the whole community and look forward to doing the events detailed above. With your agreement, we will continue the planning necessary for these events.