



Beaverdale Fall Festival

hello@fallfestival.org

www.fallfestival.org

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To all of our great neighbors, friends and supporters of the Beaverdale Fall Festival:

As we are all keenly aware, COVID-19 and related city/state mandates required us to cancel the 2020 Beaverdale Fall Festival. When the COVID-19 mandates were lifted this spring and the vaccination rate was climbing, the board felt that it was safe to move forward with planning the annual festival. However, now a month out from the festival, COVID-19 appears to be increasing again with the Delta variant.

The Beaverdale Fall Festival's Board of Directors has spent many hours this spring and summer discussing how we can proceed with the 2021 Fall Festival. We have asked ourselves if we can safely provide a festival by following social distancing guidelines and other safety measures, even if we reduced the size of the festival or parade.

We also had to decide if it was financially feasible to pay for a festival with the possibility of it being canceled last-minute due to a potential new covid restriction. The 2019 festival cost us \$65,000 and gets more expensive every year due to a number of things, including: public safety personnel, street cleaning, safety barriers, and logistics, to name a few. Unlike many other community festivals, the fall festival is not primarily supported by or a part of the city or neighborhood association. (Although we do work closely together and appreciate their help!) As a 501(c)3 non-profit, we are responsible for fundraising 100% of the money we need through partnerships with local businesses, corporate sponsorships, donations, and merchandise sales.

Adding to this that we use public streets and property, there is also a risk that a new mandate could require us to cancel the festival at the last minute, after we've paid most of the bills. This scenario would be financially burdensome and would threaten our ability to have future festivals as we have in the past.

After much debate and given the financial implications to the festival due to a possible new wave of COVID-19 restrictions, it is with great sadness that the Beaverdale Fall Festival will be postponed until 2022.

The next Beaverdale Fall Festival will be held Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th, 2022. We will offer a weekend of fun, family, and friends, just as we always have in the past. We are also planning on holding many smaller events throughout the year - an opportunity to meet neighbors and stay connected with the community.

For those that have already reserved a spot in the parade or as a vendor at the festival - we will be working over the next week to issue refunds. For those that have already granted sponsorships - we will be contacting you over the next week to ask if you would like to move your sponsorship into 2022.

There are many, many moving parts to putting on our annual festival. This decision was complex and difficult, to say the least. We ask that you please be patient with us as we continue to work to make the festival happen in future years.

We understand you may have questions. Please contact us at hello@fallfestival.org and we will be happy to help. We are really excited for the future of this festival, and we hope you are too!

Sincerely,

Beaverdale Fall Festival Board of Directors