

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

It's the week after Pumpkin Show and I think I'm glad to be back in the office. (It may actually be less work.)

I'm involved in a few events during Pumpkin Show: selling pumpkin ice cream in the Circleville Noon Rotary club's booth and being a timer for the annual Big Wheel Race, sponsored by Noon Rotary.

Both are very different activities and yet, offer some similar rewards.

The sales at the Noon Rotary ice cream booth go toward funding civic projects that we support each year: the dictionary project, Rural-Urban Day, scholarships and citizenship awards, supporting 4-H, sponsoring a soccer team and a youth baseball team, and supporting a number of charitable efforts in the county.

Like a stone that creates a ripple in a pond, the work by Rotary members will be felt by many in the community. I say *work*, but everything is done on a volunteer basis. Everyone signs up to work a shift or two in the booth; some plan and prepare for the booth sales; and others take care of closing the booth when the show ends on Saturday.

Of course, Noon Rotary's booth is just one of many community vendors: school boosters, churches and other civic groups are also there, raising money that will benefit the community in some way.

There's another huge player in the success of Pumpkin Show and that's the thousands of people who visit all of the booths. For 112 years, locals and visitors have been making Pumpkin Show a success.

Sure, people may come out for everything pumpkin, but I like to think it's the feel-good spirit of the community that entices visitors.

I also think the "feel-good spirit" of Pumpkin Show may start at a young age, as those of us who've lived here for a lifetime have fond memories of childhood visits to the show.

For some, it may start as young as 4, when a



Oct. 26, 2017



The top three finishers in this year's Big Wheel Race share the stage last Thursday at the Pumpkin Show .

parent enters them in the Big Wheel Race.

The race has been held for more than 40 years and while there is a trophy for the winner, judging by comments from the 4- and 5-year-old contestants, it seems that getting to ride down the road really fast is the big draw.

There are always a large number of family, extended family and friends watching the race and cheering on the kids. Many of the parents and now maybe some of the grandparents were participants in the past.

It's more of a fun thing than a competitive race.

In fact, that lack of competition is evident among the vendors too, as those of us selling ice cream direct visitors to the pumpkin burgers or pumpkin cheesecake and over at the Sunrise Rotary pumpkin chili booth, the club members are happy to point the way to Lindsey's for pumpkin donuts.

Yes, Pumpkin Show is more of a fun thing than a competition. And I like that about it and our town.

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