



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sensory-Friendly Wednesday Carnival Hours, Free Carnival Passes

New this year, the Sangamon County Fair will host sensory-friendly carnival hours from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, when carnival rides will operate without music and lights. A grant from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln will make available 250 carnival passes at no charge to individuals who would benefit from a lower-sensory fair experience. To further enhance access to these special hours, the fair will provide complimentary gate passes to accompany the carnival passes.

"We are thankful to CFLL for their generous support to help us increase inclusivity and accessibility at the Sangamon County Fair," said Roy Pierceall, president of the Sangamon County Fair board of directors. "The fair is a great opportunity for fun and education, and we want to make sure all of our fairgoers have a positive experience."

These special passes are available for pick up only at Hope Cafes on the west and south sides of Springfield while supplies last. Passes are limited to four sets (carnival pass and gate pass) per customer, first come, first served, beginning Monday, June 3. Both cafes are open 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hope Cafes are a vital part of The Hope Vocational Academy and provide on-the-job training for differently-abled students.

Cafe Locations:

Hope Cafe at the Hope Pavilion

5220 S. Sixth Street Road
Springfield, IL 62703

Hope Inclusion Cafe and Play

3252 Ginger Creek Drive
Springfield, IL 62711

"Hope is proud to support the Sangamon County Fair in their initiative to provide individuals with sensory issues an opportunity to experience the fair in a supportive environment," said Jodi Ogilvy, Chief Communications and Development Officer for Hope. "At Hope, we know that the individuals we serve are just like everyone else. They like to have the same fun experiences as you and I, so being able to provide a lower-sensory fair experience to individuals experiencing sensory issues is a fantastic inclusive opportunity."

The Sangamon County Fair, located in New Berlin, Illinois, is a nonprofit organization operated by a volunteer board of directors, serving visitors from Sangamon County and beyond. The board strives to provide the highest quality entertainment possible at an affordable price.

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