

I can't think of a Friday night in the newsroom I enjoy more than Canal Days Friday night. We throw open the windows and listen to the band and the crowd and it makes me smile because they sound like they are having so much fun.

Canal Days is a lot more than what you can do. It's also about who you see. It's great to find old friends and reminisce while enjoying a carnival atmosphere. New friends are also a possibility.

Today's schedule is packed with activities for all ages, including a pancake and sausage breakfast, bingo, the quilt show, the ArtFest exhibit as well as the art show, a bake sale, the pet parade, kiddie tractor pull, tractor show, a Queen's Tea, a cruise-in and more. Young artists will fill the sidewalks with chalk drawings and anglers will vie for the top prizes in the fishing derby.

New this year is Country Basket Bingo with some amazing prizes. I played Purse Bingo last year and can I share something you won't tell? I am just no good at bingo and then I get a little cranky when I don't win. I know the odds are stacked against you because there are so many who come out and play to support Canal Days. However, I figure I have just as much as everyone else — and yet I never win. Harrumph!

Canal Days is so many things and different things to each person. It's a chance to see people you perhaps don't get to talk to any other time. Former residents often travel back to Delphos for what is considered by many a sort of homecoming.

Businesses and clubs rally to make the event special and more engaging than the year before.

The "Toast" and "Battle" just keep getting bigger and better.

There's good food and good conversation.

Head uptown for down-home fun

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The kids get a chance to blow off some steam and run around like spider monkeys on a bad sugar binge. There's also a lot of organized fun to keep them focused.

What more could you ask for in the last premier festival of the year? Well, if you come up with something, pass it along to the committee. I'm sure they'll try to fit it in if possible. They are some amazing people backed by awesome volunteers. Give them some backing of your own.