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Water Valley Watermelon Carnival Offers a Sweet Time for All

STORY BY PAIGE MCKAY | PHOTOS COURTESY OF WATER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Going on its 49th year, the city of Water Valley celebrates everyone's favorite summer fruit with a weekend-long carnival. The Water Valley Watermelon Carnival is set for the weekend of August 3rd and 4th and promises to be one of the most exciting events of the summer with something fun for everyone of all ages.

Sponsored by the Water Valley Chamber of Commerce, the carnival includes live music, arts and craft vendors, food vendors, watermelon-themed games and activities for all ages, free watermelon slices, other watermelon dishes, and so much more.

The weekend begins with Town and Country Garden Club's Watermelon Music Festival on Friday night, followed by arts and crafts sales in the park all day Friday and Saturday. There will also be live music on Saturday. One of the most popular events of the weekend is the Watermelon Decorating Contest, where teams compete for the most creative watermelon. The Watermelon Queen and her court will be presented on Friday, and Friday night's street dance and firework display will take place afterward.

The fun on Saturday kicks off with a 3K walk/run and the annual Fischer Properties' Car Display at Shuffield Park, located near the Casey Jones Railroad Museum, where the Lions' Club will host a pancake breakfast in old Water Valley Railroad Depot.

After you burn some calories and work up an appetite during the 3K, head over to the Train Tracks Pork Attack BBQ Contest. Ticketholders for the BBQ contest will be able to taste several different dishes and help choose who will take home the Taster's Choice Award. Other cooking categories include best dessert, best sauce, and best watermelon-themed dish.

Watermelon games start at 11 a.m. on Saturday morning, with events ranging from seed-spitting, watermelon throwing, and a watermelon eating contests. All ages are welcome to enter the watermelon games. Watermelon slices will be handed out throughout the afternoon, followed by a dog costume contest and a sidewalk chalk drawing activity.

With something for everyone, the Water Valley Watermelon Carnival is sure to be one of the most fun events of the summer. Grab your family and friends and enjoy a weekend of fun, food, music, and, of course, watermelon. For more information on this event, visit www.facebook.com/WaterValleyAreaChamberOfCommerce/, or call 662-473-1122.

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OPPOSITE: Watermelon Salsa, free watermelon slices, Watermelon Sherbet. THIS PAGE: Watermelon drink, variety of funnel cakes, hog roast.

