

## Wagoner Family Fun Day making its annual return to Maple Park

The annual Wagoner Family Fun Day is just around the corner, and this year will be the best year, said Jim Hollifield.

Hollifield, the senior pastor at Wagoner First United Methodist Church, said there are a whopping 43 different booths and activities for parents and their kids to check out this year...and it's all free.

"We have everything from a petting zoo with mini horses to the police and fire departments bringing out their equipment," Hollifield said. "We'll have hot dog stands, a popcorn stand, two bounce houses and a slew of other things."

Wagoner Family Fun Day will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 16 at Maple Park. The driving idea behind the ministry is to facilitate open communication between service agencies and faith communities and the people they serve, in a time other than a crisis.

Louise Micolites, the secretary of the Wagoner County Family Service Agency, said another purpose of the event was getting families together for a no-cost fun event.

"A lot of times, you see agencies and the faith community trying to problem solve, and figure out how they can best serve the needs of the community," Micolites said. "We're finding out that a lot of agencies can provide the same service, and this is a way of educating the community on which agency does what."

Agencies such as the Department of Human Services and CREOKS Behavioral Health Services will be on hand, as well as law enforcement agencies and emergency services. Micolites said something new was happening for the adults this year.

"We normally just draw for prizes for the kids, and we'll be doing that again this year," she said. "But this year we'll also have a way for the adults to get in on the prizes as well."

As adults come into the park, they'll be given a passport. This passport will ask them to check in at certain key stations around the park and collect a sticker or stamp from each one. Once 10 of those stickers have been collected, the adults can turn in their passport and be entered for prizes.

Hollifield said the adult drawing would be smaller than the kid drawing, so chances were better for winning a prize in the grown up camp.

"We had 700 people show up last year, and the majority of those were kids," Hollifield said. "That means the adults have a good chance of winning some neat things if they complete the passport."

Hollifield also said he wanted to clear up any confusion about, and reiterate the cost of the event: free.

"This is an absolutely free event," he said. "We noticed people on the periphery last year, and we approached them, and they told us the event looked fun, but they weren't sure they could afford it. That is not the case at all. This is a completely free event. Bring your children without expense, and you might even take something home."

One thing the residents of Wagoner will obviously go home with is the knowledge of the myriad service agencies and faith communities in and around the city.

"This is a big event all the way around," Hollifield said. "And we're excited about it. We're about three times bigger this year than we were last year, and we want to get the community there and connect them with resources that will give them the help they need."



A young Wagoner Family Fun Day-goer gets her face painted at one of the many booths during last year's event. This year promises to be bigger and better, said Jim Hollifield. | File Photo