

Media Release - 2008

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Release: Immediate

Kennywood Park's traditional Fall Fantasy Parade proclaims "Happy Birthday Pittsburgh" with
Pittsburgh on Parade!

West Mifflin, PA — Kennywood is pleased to present *Pittsburgh on Parade* as its 59th annual *Fall Fantasy* theme. This annual extravaganza begins Tuesday, August 12, and runs every evening at 8 PM thru Sunday, August 24, plus Friday, August 29. *

Along with up to twelve bands performing every night — that's almost 150 high school and college bands! — numerous all-time favorite Pittsburgh "celebrities" will be Grand Marshals for the 2008 parade. Kennywood's Jerome Gibas states, "Participating in Pittsburgh's 250th celebration provides the perfect opportunity to feature some of our region's favorite personalities. We're excited to have a line-up that includes lots of favorites – ranging from *Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners* to *Mr. McFeely* of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make-Believe* (a.k.a. David Newell)."

The hand-crafted floats model favorite Pittsburgh places, people, and things. Beginning with a Giant 250th Birthday Cake, floats represent Sports Mania, the Future, Kennywood (of course), George Washington Ferris, Mister Rogers, Um, Um Good (that would be favorite foods!), and as always, Santa Claus – this year being pulled by a robot!

Fall Fantasy dates back to 1950, when *Alice in Wonderland on Parade* began the tradition. That six night festival made use of floats from Riverview Park in Chicago, Illinois, as well as local marching bands. After two years of transporting floats from Chicago to West Mifflin, Kennywood decided to produce its own floats. Long time float crafter, Mary Ann Spanagel of Pittsburgh, who began as a teenage assistant to artist Frank Ross (her art teacher) in 1961 and took over the reigns in 1979, has passed the "float baton" to her sister Tracy Lees. Though Mary Ann is now the "assistant", the talents of these two sisters are certain to delight the entire *Fall Fantasy* audience!

For further information, including a listing of performing bands and a coupon for **\$5 OFF** Fall Fantasy's \$17 *NightRider* ticket, please visit www.kennywood.com.

***Note: Kennywood is closed Monday, August 25 through Thursday, August 28. The park opens at 5 PM on Friday, August 29, and is open all day Saturday through Labor Day, September 1, plus two bonus weekends: Saturdays and Sundays, September 6, 7, 13 and 14.**

The 76th annual Croatian Day is Saturday, August 30.

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ABOUT KENNYWOOD

Kennywood first opened in 1898 as “trolley park” at the end of the Monongahela Street Railway. Today it is family owned and operated by Kennywood Entertainment, western Pennsylvania’s largest provider of summer fun. Often regarded as America's finest traditional amusement park, Kennywood is internationally known among thrill seekers and amusement park enthusiasts for its collection of classic rides, state-of-the-art thrill rides, and world-class roller coasters and a wide variety of food, games, gardens, and live entertainment. For more information please call 412.461.0500 or visit www.kennywood.com.