

# 77<sup>th</sup> Annual La Porte 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



**Kiwanis**  
Club of La Porte



**MADE IN AMERICA -**  
*With Home Town Pride*

[www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org](http://www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org)

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# The LaPorte 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



July 4, 2023

Happy Birthday, America!

It's a great day for sharing a 4<sup>th</sup> of July morning with thousands of family, friends, and fellow citizens. It officially begins with an A-10 "Blacksnakes" flyover, at 10:10 a.m.

For some, this might be your first experience, while for others it's an annual event spanning decades AND generations. Either way, you're all now part of a 77-years long tradition; enjoying a parade put on by the citizens, for the citizens.

This year's theme, *Made in America - With Home Town Pride*, is all around you; along the parade route and in the shop windows. Local business pride is nothing new. Our Grand Marshal - The New York Blower Company, has called this area home since the early 1900's, sharing their manufacturing expertise worldwide.

The drive and determination that make for successful businesses, can also be seen in our youth who have built championships, this past year, from the ball diamonds, to the grid-iron, to the global competitions in the realms of robotics.

The Kiwanis Club of LaPorte, is once again proud to steward this great event, and excited to organize today's parade - the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual LaPorte 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. — and to accept the honor of having LaPorte named Indiana Capital for the Day, by Governor Eric Holcomb.

Kiwanians are all about improving the world, one child and one community at a time. With a lot of hard work, from a lot of people, we hope today's parade makes the world seem just a bit better and a little friendlier —feelings *Made in America, With Home Town Pride*.

## *Drum*

Drummond Osborn  
Kiwanis President 2020-22  
Parade Co-chair

## *Dawn*

Dawn Zigler  
Kiwanis Member  
Parade Co-chair

## *Joy*

Joy Zigler  
Kiwanis Member  
Parade Co-chair

We are proud and thankful to be honored by a flyover from the **122nd Fighter Wing, "Blacksnakes"** out of the Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base. It began with our application to the Federal Aviation Administration, (FAA), back in January, culminating with two **A-10 Thunderbolt II - "Warthog"** aircraft making a single pass, at approximately 10:10 a.m. Their mission today: make parade flyover passes for eight similar events.



The **122nd Fighter Wing** traces its heritage back to the **358th** Fighter Group that was activated in **January, 1943**, at Richmond Army Air Base, VA. The **358th** flew interdiction and bomber escort missions from England until D-Day. In May **1946**, the group was re-designated as the **122nd** Fighter Group, assigned to the Indiana Air National Guard. During the WWII the **358th**, was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations. Portions of the Wing were activated during the Korean War, and the Berlin Crisis. After September 11, 2001, they were one of the first American units deployed overseas. The **122nd** Fighter Wing continues to operate a full squadron of A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft.



A promotional graphic for E-PAK MACHINERY, INC. The background features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes, and several bursts of fireworks. The company logo, 'E-PAK MACHINERY, INC.', is prominently displayed in a blue box with white and red accents. Below the logo is a circular emblem with an American flag and the text 'MADE IN THE U.S.A.'. At the bottom, the text 'HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY' is written in a large, bold, red font with a white outline.



**City of LaPorte Proclaimed Capital for the Day**

Since the mid-1940's the City of LaPorte been recognized for its 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration excellence. This year is the 77th consecutive year, in which, the sitting Governor of the State of Indiana has seen fit to name LaPorte Capital for the Day. From its citizenry which lines the two miles long parade route, to the community fireworks and local celebrations, LaPorte continues to rise above the rest.

As written in the Proclamation:

*Whereas, July 4<sup>th</sup> is a day set aside for celebration and renewed dedication to the principles of our priceless American heritage; and  
Whereas, the mantle of responsibility for the continuation of our free nation rests on the shoulders of every American citizen: and*

*Whereas, the Kiwanis Club of LaPorte sees to encourage the recognition and respect for the traditions and principles of our American Heritage . . . Now, Therefore, I, Eric Holcomb, Governor of the Sate of Indiana, do hereby proclaim LaPorte As Capital For the Day.*



**Parade Grand Marshal – The New York Blower Company Will Mathis – Board Member/Founder’s Descendent**

There are many companies which are well suited for this year’s parade theme: **Made in America – With Home Town Pride.** The New York Blower Company, however, epitomizes that theme, as its reach is from coast to coast, and around the globe.

New York Blower Company, with its factory being in Bucyrus, OH. When JW Mathis saw an opportunity to move back closer to Chicago, in 1917, he purchased the buildings and property of American 3-Way Prism Company in the industrial community of LaPorte, IN, pop. 15,000. In 1919, operations were fully moved from Bucyrus to LaPorte, and by October of that year, the factory was operational with a work force of over 100.

New York Blower Company started as Mathis Brothers Company in Chicago, in 1889. And in 1904 purchased The



The company has successfully continued operations for 104 years, enduring World Wars, the Great Depression, and a global pandemic. It has participated in ventilation projects, such as the Merchandise Mart, the largest building in the world, until the Pentagon was constructed. And has supplied 680 centrifugal fans housed in the Pentagon, since its construction in the early 1940's. New York Blower fans were also used at Ford Bomber, Bendix Aviation, General Motors and the US Navy during the World War II effort. Generations of LaPorteans have appreciated the home town expertise of New York Blower, as NYB fans have been running in LaPorte's own Civic Auditorium since 1929.





## Parade Honorary Grand Marshal – Craig M. Dwight

“Distinguished by his humanity in living, his loyalty in friendship, his wisdom in council, and his inspiration in leadership.” these are just some of the words bestowed upon Craig M Dwight, as a 2023 recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash award – one of the highest honors awarded by the State of Indiana. From Management Trainee to Chairman of the Board, the past 44 years encompassed notable career success and selfless community service.

A 1979 graduate of Indiana Univ., Blooming, IN. Craig began and ended his career at Horizon Bank, with a brief tenure with First of America Bank, in Holland, Michigan. Under his leadership Horizon Bank grew from a \$400 million bank, to a bank with over \$7.8 billion. Along the way, Craig shared his leadership skills and passions throughout the community.

Craig has served and chaired the local hospital board, United Way of La Porte County, and the local economic development corporation, as well as serving in leadership positions, for numerous other community organizations including The MC Chamber of Commerce, St. Paul School Foundation, the Michigan City Economic Development Commission, Purdue North Central Advisory Board, the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank’s Community Financial Institutions Counsel, and the Indiana Bankers Assoc. Board. Craig was honored to ring the opening bell for the NASDAQ in New York City in 2019.

### A shortened list of Additional Awards/Accolades:

- 2010 Named Northwest Indiana’s Top CEO’s by Northwest Indiana’s Business Quarterly
- 2013 Named Chairman of the Board of Directors for Horizon Bancorp
- 2017 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame
- 2022 & 2023 Named Most Influential People Award Indianapolis Business Journal

Now retired, Craig and Pam Dwight live in La Porte, Indiana; have been happily married for forty years; have three wonderful children and five beautiful grandchildren. Craig’s family enjoys travel, hiking, bicycling, water & snow skiing, boating, and the great outdoors.

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**Parade Honorary Grand Marshal – Julie West**  
 From the grid-iron to the council chambers to the well traveled roads into the Indiana State Capital building, Julie West has devoted the past decade to saving young lives. Borne from the tragic loss of her son, Jake, to an undetected heart condition, Julie founded the Play for Jake Foundation. Her message and her mission went beyond this city’s boundaries, as she became a resounding voice for AED access and training. After her years’ long efforts, the Indiana Legislature recently passed Jake’s Law – SB369, which addresses the need for AED’s at school functions. A Purdue University graduate, Julie is an educator by training, and an active community volunteer by heart, serving on the LaPorte City Council, the LaPorte City Fire Merit Commission, the Kiwanis Club of LaPorte, and numerous other organizations. Always optimistic, Julie can be heard saying “LaPorte is a community on the rise! I LOVE our community”

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AND HAPPY  
FOURTH  
OF JULY!**



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# Kiwaniis®

It has been 102 years, since 52 LaPorte business leaders gathered on a cold February day in 1921 to charter the *Kiwaniis Club of LaPorte*.

The names and faces have changed, but a current membership of 50 (and growing) sees the needs and seeks the solutions for improving the lives of children, in meaningful ways.



In recent years, we've add "Pop-up picnics" in neighborhood parks, to our fun, engaging, & fulfilling community events. More than just hotdogs, the kids interact with fire and police, participate in games and bike safety, and are provided a safe space surrounded by caring adults.

Kiwaniis is a global organization with a simple mission to *"improve the world, one child and one community at a time."*

Help support our upcoming Pop Picnic, at Rumley Park, and our participation at Rock the Block school year kick-off.

Join us for our next activity, or stop by a meeting to learn more. [www.IndKwi.org](http://www.IndKwi.org), or contact Kiwanis Club of LaPorte, President Mike Riehle, 219.575.2038

Scan to  
Donate!



# Parade Entries

As of June 26, 2023

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | American Flag - LaSalle Council-Potawatomi District Scouting BSA | 28 | Noble Township Volunteer Fire Department   |
| 2  | Vietnam Veterans Inc., LaPorte, IN                               | 29 | Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department  |
| 3  | LaPorte County 40 & 8 Veterans Honor Society                     | 30 | Hanna Township Volunteer Fire Department   |
| 4  | American Legion Post 83  | 31 | Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department  |
| 5  | VFW Post #1130, LaPorte IN                                       | 32 | Pleasant Township Auxillary  |
| 6  | Roger Galloway, City Council                                     | 33 | State Senator Mike Bohacek District 8  |
| 7  | The Guardian Riders  | 34 | Purdue University Boilermaker Special sponsored by Purdue Federal Credit Union   |
| 8  | The Great Lakes Museum of Military History                       | 35 | Michiana Clowns  |
| 9  | Hoosier A's Model A Club   | 36 | Meghan Maddox MTM Long Beach Reality/<br>Peggy Loza The Mortgage Exchange  |
| 10 | LaPorte City Band  | 37 | <b>Grand Parade Marshal The New York Blower Company La Porte Manufacturer since 1919 Represented by Will Mathis, New York Blower Board Member and Founder's Descendent</b> |
| 11 | Mayor of LaPorte Tom Dermody                                     | 38 | Miss/Mr New Buffalo Scholarship Pagaent  |
| 12 | Livin' The Lake Life   | 39 | Garwood Orchards   |
| 13 | LaPorte High School Marching Band                                | 40 | Works in Motion Dance Company  |
| 14 | Kiwanis Club of LaPorte  | 41 | LaPorte County Public Library  |
| 15 | Indiana Conservation Officers                                    | 42 | Rehab to Gain Your Independence-Millers Heath & Rehab  |
| 16 | Indiana State Police   | 43 | LaPorte City Council Members - Tim Franke, Laura Konieczny & Karyl Feikes  |
| 17 | LaPorte County Sheriff Ron Heeg                                  | 44 | <b>Honorary Parade Marshal Craig Dwight, Horizon Bank 150 Year Anniversary</b>   |
| 18 | LaPorte County Sheriff's Posse                                   | 45 | Ramsey Sheet Metal   |
| 19 | LaPorte County EMS   | 46 | LaPorte County Republican Party  |
| 20 | City of LaPorte Police Department                                | 47 | LaPorte County Recorder Elzbieta Bilderback  |
| 21 | LaPorte Fire Department Chief Andy Snyder                        | 48 | Orak Shrine Transportation Van/Motorcycles   |
| 22 | Scipio Township Volunteer Fire Department                        | 49 | Orak Shrine Oriental Band  |
| 23 | Kingsford Union Volunteer Fire Department                        | 50 | Orak Shrine Fezz Float   |
| 24 | Center Township Volunteer Fire Department                        | 51 | Masonic Lodge - Excelsio Lodge #41   |
| 25 | Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Department                       | 52 | Polish Falcons   |
| 26 | Kingsbury Township Volunteer Fire Department                     | 53 | <b>Celebration Marshal New Prairie Girls Softball Team 2023 Class 3A State Champions</b>   |
| 27 | Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department                   | 53 | Kankakee Township Volunteer Fire Department  |
|    |  | 54 | New Prairie High School Marching Cougars   |

Most Up-To-Date  
Parade Line-Up



[www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org](http://www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org)

# Parade Entries

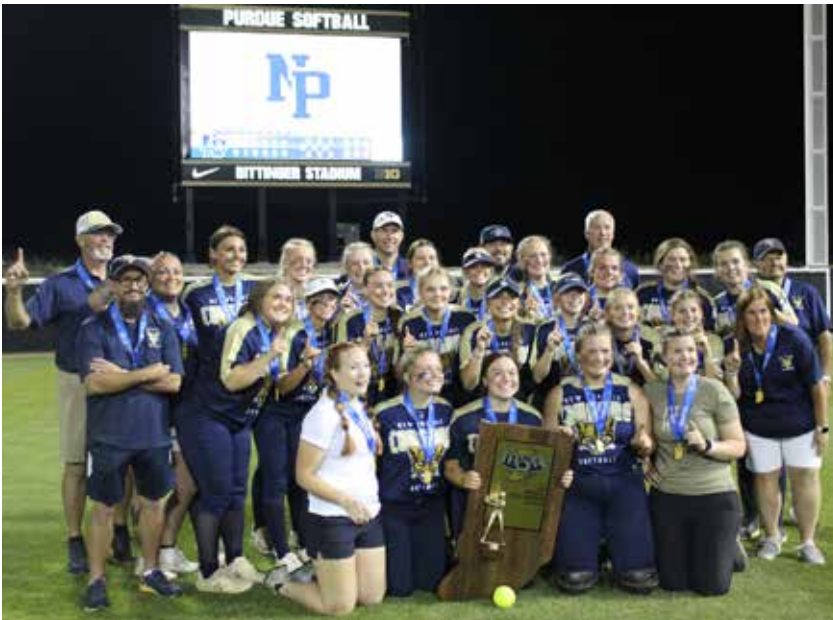
As of June 26, 2023

- |    |   |     |  |
|----|---|-----|--|
| 55 | New Prairie High School Cheer   | 88  | Michiana Mustangs  |
| 56 | <b>Celebration Marshal New Prairie Assistant Football Coach Bill Gumm - Indiana's Assistant Coach of the Year, Top 8 Finalists National Asst. Coach of the Year</b> | 89  | Local Hero's Mustang Raffle  |
| 57 | New Prairie High School Dance Team  | 90  | LaPorte 4-H E-Z Riders Drill Team  |
| 58 | State Representative Jim Pressel  | 91  | LaPorte Lions Club   |
| 59 | New Prairie High School Football Team   | 92  | Jaeger-Unitex Sealing Solutions, Inc.  |
| 60 | Carpenters Local 1485   | 93  | <b>Celebration Marshal Slicer Tech LaPorte High School Robotics Team - State of Indiana Rookies All Star of the Year</b> |
| 61 | Slicer Cheerleaders   | 94  | Niles Scream Park  |
| 62 | Gann Mechanical   | 95  | Mangled Axles Jeep Krew  |
| 63 | Judah Explosion   | 96  | Servpro of LaPorte County  |
| 64 | LaPorte County Happy Hounds 4-H Dog Club  | 97  | LaPorte County Meals on Wheels   |
| 65 | Pioneer Land  | 98  | QCC  |
| 66 | LaPorte County Agricultural Assoc   | 99  | Re/Max County Wide 1st   |
| 67 | LaPorte County Fair Queen & Contestants   | 100 | LaPorte County Right to Life   |
| 68 | GoMetz Farm   | 101 | Kaiser Auto  |
| 69 | Arts in the Park  | 102 | Harvest Time Church of God   |
| 70 | Door Village Harvest Festival   | 103 | VNA Hospice NWI  |
| 71 | LaPorte County Democratic Central Committee   | 104 | E-Pak Machinery - Made in the USA  |
| 72 | LaPorte County Council Randy Novak  | 105 | Thank you Vets Trucker & Farmers   |
| 73 | LaPorte County Assessor Michael Schultz   | 106 | Summers of LaPorte   |
| 74 | LaPorte County Family YMCA  | 107 | LaPorte High School FFA  |
| 75 | LaPorte Pop Warner  | 108 | ASM Mechanical/Crush Baseball  |
| 76 | LaPorte High School Dance Team  | 109 | Coates Racing - Andrew Coates LaPorte  |
| 77 | Rumely-Allis Chalmers LaPorte Heritage Center   | 110 | 7-Eleven LaPorte   |
| 78 | LaPorte County Sunday Farmers   | 111 | Ivy Tech Community College - Valparaiso, Michigan City & LaPorte   |
| 79 | Michigan City High School Wolfpack Pride  | 112 | MVP Towing and Recovery  |
| 80 | Great Lakes Grand Prix-Crazy Rhythm   | 113 | Waste Management   |
| 81 | LaPorte Community Federal Credit Union  |     |  |
| 82 | LaPorte Municipal Airport   |     |  |
| 83 | Keepers of the Kingdom, Grace Baptist Church  |     |  |
| 84 | <b>Honorary Parade Marshal Julie West Play for Jake Foundation</b>  |     |  |
| 85 | South Central Rockettes Varsity Dance Team  |     |  |
| 86 | Celebrating Freedom - Frank Kenzei  |     |  |
| 87 | Robert Tylisz Appliance   |     |  |

[www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org](http://www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org)

Most Up-To-Date  
Parade Line-Up





**Parade Celebration Marshal**

We celebrate the 2023 New Prairie Cougar Softball Team, led by head coach Derek Hicks, which became the 3A state Champions after defeating Tri-West 4-2 at Purdue’s Bittinger Stadium. This is New Prairie’s first team state championship, in any team sport. Senior Abby Robakowski had 23 of those home runs (setting an all-time Indiana single season homerun record) The Cougars were led in the pitching circle by first team all-state player, Ava Geyer. Geyer finished the season with 300 strikeouts and an earned run average of 0.99.

\*stats prior to state championship game



**Parade Celebration Marshal – Bill Gumm; New Prairie Ass’t Football Coach**

- 2022/23 Indiana Assistant Coach of the Year – Indiana Football Coach’s Assoc.
- 2022/23 Top 8 Finalist for National Assistant Coach of the Year – National High School Athletic Coaches Assoc.
- 2022/23 Offensive Coordinator of the Year – Indiana Gridiron Digest

Hired by former Cougar Head Coach, Bart Curtis, in 2001, Bill’s coaching influence on young football players, speaks for itself. From his time as a freshman coach, to the state and national stage, as a Varsity Ass’t Coach, helping lead his Cougars to the State Championship games in 2014 and 2022, hard earned success has followed. Coach Gumm is a 1989 Graduate of New Prairie High School and attended Ivy Tech College. He is employed by the New Prairie High School in a Student Management position, and has recently retired after 31 years of service to the New Carlisle Fire Department, including serving as Chief from 2007-2010. Off the gridiron, Bill works

as an Agent with Raymond & Spence Insurance, along with being a partner in a growing catering business, the Chef’s Table, in New Carlisle. Coach Gumm has two sons, Cody and Dustin. In his “spare” time, he enjoys fishing, golfing and spending time with his two grandchildren, Grace and Dominic.



**La Porte County Public Library**

[laportelibrary.org](http://laportelibrary.org)

**Parade Celebration Marshal – LaPorte High School Robotic Team**

The SlicerTech's first year of competition was well rewarded by being named Rookie All Star for the State of Indiana, and earning an invitation to the World Championships. Held in Houston, TX, they competed against seven hundred teams, from twenty-six countries, finishing 44<sup>th</sup>, over all.



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Kiwanis Club of LaPorte

Since 1919 Indiana Kiwanians have supported the work of Riley Hospital for Children, from the very first brick to the current Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist Endowment.

As in recent years, the Kiwanis Club of LaPorte organizes a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Run for Riley, with all run proceeds being directed to Riley. In conjunction with this year's parade sponsorships, the following organizations are recognized for their Run for Riley Sponsorship Level.

*Thank you to our 2023 Run for Riley Sponsors*





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# The LaPorte 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



Though we've highlighted our official sponsors, in our Program, and on the banner traveling today's parade routes, it wouldn't be a parade without all the support from individuals and local businesses.

Members of the Kiwanis Club who helped in big and small ways

Parade Entries: Dawn Zigler & Joy Zigler

Sponsors: Drummond Osborn

Program Cover: Toni Kester Bulger

Program/Web Content: Drummond Osborn

Trash box distribution: Al Ott, LPHS Girls Basketball Team & the South Shore Smoke Baseball Team

Parade Website Design: Sera Group

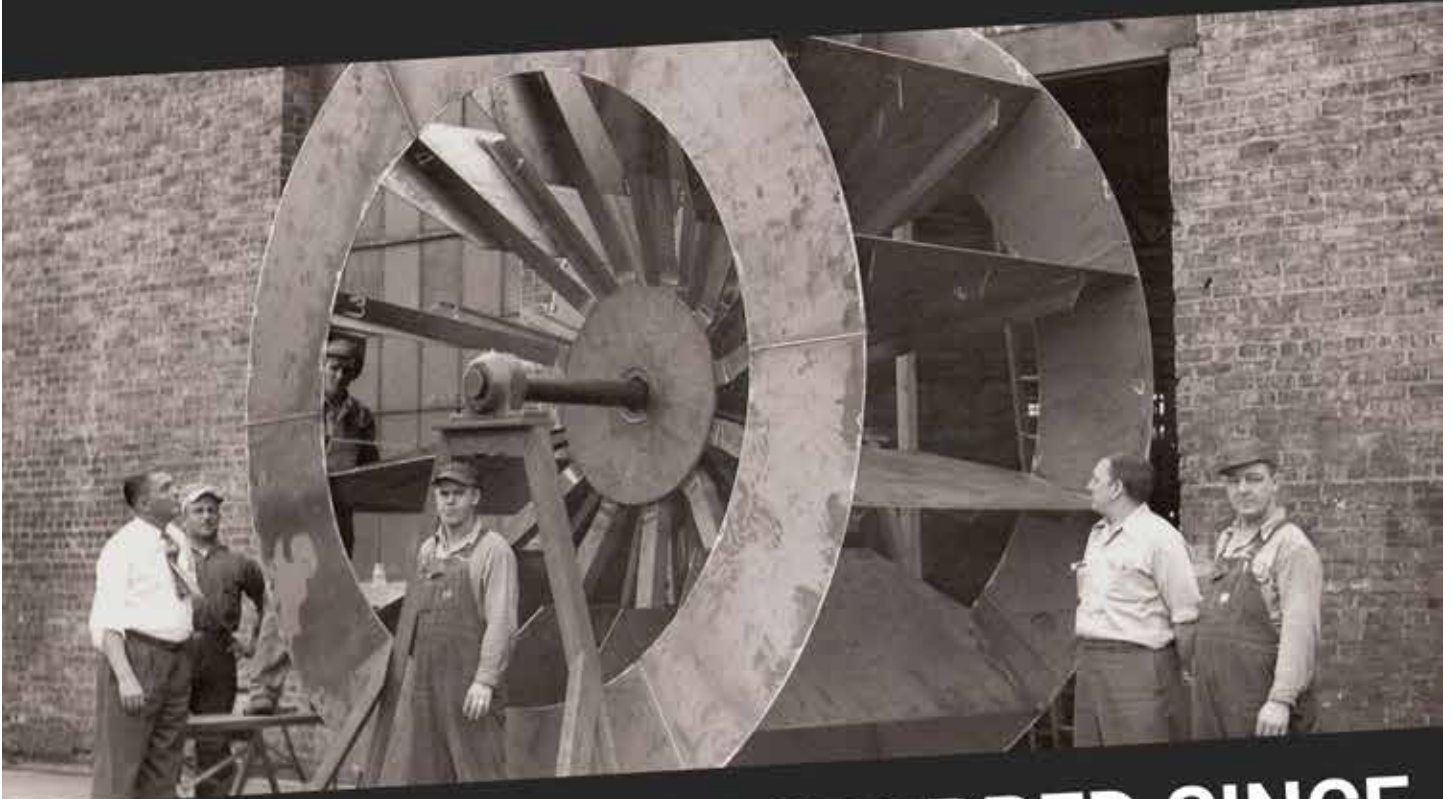
Window Contest Media Prize Package: WIMS Radio

We apologize in advance for any omissions from this list. Let us know, and we'll be glad to give shout outs when we publish our post-parade THANK YOU's!!!



See you all next year! Have a comment and idea about the parade? Share it at [info@Kiwanis4thofJulyParade.org](mailto:info@Kiwanis4thofJulyParade.org).

# PROUD LA PORTE COMMUNITY MEMBER SINCE 1919



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