

Festivals in FALL

Local events honor cultural traditions and the upcoming autumn season with gatherings for every taste

BY FLORENCE COPE

A

s the season of autumn rolls around, one may feel trapped indoors by the cooler weather and lack of outdoor activities. Thankfully, with the changing colors of the leaves

come many festivities around Spartanburg that are perfect for a Saturday afternoon.

One popular festival in the area is the Spartanburg Greek Festival. It was held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on Sept. 27-30.

The event had plenty of Greek food, music, dancing, and handmade souvenirs, and tickets were only \$2. One could experience Greek culture without having to travel half way around the world. Alex Becknell (11) has grown up being involved in the Greek Festival.

“I’m Greek Ortho-

Countries like the Philippines, Mexico, and Germany had stations at the International Festival. Theo Goodchild-Michelman (10) explores the French tent in this photo.

PHOTO BY G. TILL



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Dancing at the Greek Festival, Isabella Rubio (9), Alex Becknell (10), Anna Becknell (9), and two Dorman girls enjoyed celebrating their Mediterranean heritage.

dox, so it’s a good way to share my heritage and culture with the community via dances, food, and clothing,” Becknell said.

Melting Pot Music Festival took place downtown on Sept. 29. It was a free event that featured multiple musicians and performances, plus vendors that sold a variety of foods and art. Local performers included Abbey Elmore, CeeJ, and JJ DAE. There were aspects that people of all ages would enjoy, such as a kid zone and a virtual reality haunted house.

The International Festival was held on Oct. 6. Beginning in 1985, this annual celebration allows people to dive into the cultures of different countries, experiencing the food and art of foreign places.

Over 190 different countries had stands at the festival. Various food vendors set up stands along

N. Converse St. According to cityofspartanburg.org, more than 12,000 people visit the festival each year.

Theo Goodchild-Michelman (10) enjoyed all the different aspects of the festival.

“The International Festival was a fun experience with lots of food and lots of friends,” Goodchild-Michelman said.

The Piedmont Interstate Fair was a week full of exciting rides, shows, and food. It was held Oct. 8-14 at the fairgrounds. There were different games, a ferris wheel, vendors, art shows, animals, and prizes to be won.

Car shows, helicopter rides, and petting zoos were also available to explore. Hammett Anderson (10) has always had a positive experience at the fair.

“I remember one year they had a competition where you

had to make art out of vegetables, and I made a ferris wheel out of pumpkins.”

Another fall festival is Fall for Greenville, which was held Oct. 12-14. It was held in downtown Greenville along Main Street. One could experience over 40 restaurants and seven stages with multiple musical artists. This year’s Fall for Greenville had more than 70 bands that performed. The entertainment was free and there were a variety of competitions and vendors to visit. This event was a great way to enjoy a sunny, autumn weekend with family and friends. □