

PUMPKIN FEST

(Cont. from A1)

then we won't have to worry about canceling the festival. It's on us. It's our responsibility to choose who to invite and make sure those who don't go to school in Keene are made aware of specific rules," Sterling said.

The first "saving grace" to follow is if you invite guests from off-campus or from out-of-state, invite one guest and only one guest. Research shows that a best friend is less likely to make trouble than friends of friends.

Keep gatherings indoors and limit the number of guests to those you know and have an ID proving they are 21-years of age or older.

The third tip is to stock up on party food such as pizza or cheese and crackers. Parties with great menus tend to be the parties with the fewest arrests.

Outside, act as if your grandmother were in the houses you pass by and try not to wake or upset her. The grandmother rule can keep everyone out of trouble and a lot of neighbors happy.

Another saving grace is to volunteer to help with the festival or to clean up the neighborhoods afterward.

Join the Facebook group, "Help! Don't cancel the Keene Pumpkin Fest," started by a KSC college student.

Lastly, attend a Face-Off Forum where students, police, and other residential officials meet together to find common ground dealing with festival issues.

Roger Weinreich, a former Boston firefighter, said the town is working on assembling a clean-up crew to help with the aftermath of the festival. "We want to establish authority for during the festival so if anyone causes a disturbance we have officials to talk to them and resolve the issue," Weinreich said.

Weinreich also said if such authority were to be assembled, they wouldn't have the same capabilities as the Keene Police Department or Keene Fire Department. "We don't want to see people getting arrested or hurt; it would just be people in orange vests who engage with attendants who again are causing disturbances," Weinreich said.

Sterling hopes the festival doesn't get carried away within the surrounding neighborhoods as residents have been getting together to talk about the noise complaints in certain housing areas where college students live. "Neighbors get together at the Bentley Commons, a retirement complex, to discuss their concerns with noise complaints that keep them up due to college partying," Sterling said.

Students who live off campus said the noise does get out-of-hand sometimes, but that's what happens when you're surrounded by off-campus housing.

Amy Battey, a KSC senior who lives off campus, stressed that people don't take into consideration who's living around them and that's a major issue. "The streets of Keene are bad enough on a simple Thursday night, to think that Pumpkin Fest is going to be even worse should concern a lot of people," Battey said. "Residents who don't go to school are living right in the middle of the party streets and people should take that into consideration when roaming the streets during the festival."

Sterling wants student to know that the Face-Off Forum is recruiting anyone who wishes to help, but space is limited. You can go on the Pumpkin Fest website, www.pumpkinfest2011.org, and register to help keep the peace.

If you have any questions concerning the Pumpkin Festival of 2011, Ruth Sterling can be contacted by email at www.SterlingDes.com

"Our goal is for everyone to wake up on Oct. 23, 2011 and be happy with each other and the overall success of the festival. Students literally have the opportunity to save this wonderful tradition and I think everyone has the ability to contribute and make this event something special," Sterling said.

Jon Carey can be contacted at jcarey1@ksc.mailcruiser.com.

7 Deadly Sins of Pumpkin Festival



RUTH STERLING / STERLING DESIGN AND COMMUNICATIONS

High surplus may lead to fewer proposed budget cuts

NORMA LOVE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

An unaudited report of New Hampshire's finances shows the state ended the fiscal year on June 30 with an unexpected \$26 million surplus, which Gov. John Lynch suggested will lessen the need to make further budget cuts.

Lynch announced the surplus Friday and took credit for achieving it by managing state agency spending with cooperation from his department heads.

When the Republican-controlled Legislature adopted the budget in June for the two years starting July 1, lawmakers assumed starting with no surplus from 2011. The \$10.2 billion, two-year budget assumes the state will end this year with a \$14 million deficit and take \$9 million from the state's savings account. Republicans assumed the budget would be balanced by the end of the second year with \$11 million in savings.

Lynch, a Democrat, did not agree with some of the budget cuts made by Republicans, but allowed the budget to become law without his signature.

Since then, the federal government has demanded a \$35 million Medicaid payment from the state in a dispute over how New Hampshire administered its Medicaid program. Lawmakers knew the payment demand was possible, but did not set aside money for it in the budget. This month, the House began looking at new budget cuts to address the problem, but backed away from taking action Thursday because state tax receipts for September are coming in ahead of expectations.

The Senate had no plans to return before January, meaning that even if the House approved cuts, nothing could happen with them until next year.

The federal government is

demanding that New Hampshire repay \$35 million in Medicaid money used in 2004 to help 26 hospitals offset costs of treating their most vulnerable patients. The state is appealing.

"In the face of ongoing economic challenges, we not only delivered a balanced budget, we managed to generate a \$26 million surplus," Lynch said Friday. "Across state government, we have continued to carefully manage and aggressively reduce costs, generating the surplus."

Lynch said the \$26 million surplus shows what strong fiscal management can accomplish. In 2008, Lynch froze most hiring, equipment purchases and out-of-state travel. State agency heads also have cut energy use, in-state travel and eliminated and reorganized programs to save money.

Besides producing a surplus, Lynch said Executive Branch actions left the \$9 million in the state's savings account that the budget had counted on spending.

Additionally, revenues for the first quarter are \$10 million ahead of predictions, he said.

But Lynch said now is not the time to relax fiscal management, given uncertainties like the \$35 million Medicaid fight with the federal government. Lynch said New Hampshire continues to argue it does not owe the money. If the state loses and is required to repay the money, Lynch said New Hampshire wants it spread the payments over time and not in a lump sum.

Lynch said the House was premature to begin looking at potential budget cuts.

"They all need to wait," he said.

Republican House Speaker William O'Brien said the Legislature will introduce legislation next year to put the surplus into the state's savings account.

ROEMER

(Cont. from A1)

right.

Shallyne Baez, a junior studying sociology, just began eating her food and chatting with friends when Roemer began to speak.

Antioch grad student tracks local owl migration