

March 16, 2009

Dear Parade Participant,

Thank you very much for your entry in the 2009 Freedom Festival Parade. We will be celebrating the Holiday on July 4, 2009 with a large parade therefore your entry is most appreciated.

The parade will start from the staging area at 10:00am sharp, rain or shine. This means that all participants must be at or in their unit at 9:45am. Marshals will start to bunch the units at this time.

Attached to this letter are two maps. The first map deals with the staging area. All units must appear in the staging area so we can assure you are in your proper position as you pass the reviewing stand. Please make sure you are on site by 9:00am. Parade Marshals will be on hand by 8:30am to assist you in any way possible. If you are pulling anything behind a vehicle, you must enter the staging area at the corner of Grant and Fenway Drive. By doing so, you will be positioned correctly to enter the parade. As it gets very congested in the area there is no room to turn around once you are on Grant Street. Marshals at the corner of Ellen and Adelaide will not permit entry at their point. If your unit is comprised of two vehicles, one pulling a trailer and the other does not. The one pulling the trailer will be on Grant Street and the other one will be else where in the staging area. You will still be in the parade together as the two units will be merged at the corner of Grant and West Streets prior to entering the actual parade route. If you are pulling a trailer and will also have walkers, they should meet you on Grant Street. Please advise all walkers of the name you are registered under and inform them that there is very little parking available in the staging area. Their best bet is to park in the parking lot on Adelaide Street across from the Fenton Intermediate School and walk in from there. If walkers are being dropped off, they should be dropped off at Shiawassee where they can walk down one block to Grant.

The second map is of the parade route. We will attempt to have marshals along the route to give you any assistance you may need. They will also monitor to insure parade rules are being followed. If you are falling behind the unit in front of you, they will request that you close the gap. If you are too close to the unit in front of you, you will be asked to slow down to the proper interval that was established at the start of the parade. These two conditions cause other units behind you to accordion and viewers become confused as to whether the parade is over.

**MAINTAIN SPACING:** At the start of the parade you will be spaced to provide the opportunity for the viewers to properly see and enjoy your unit. It is important that this spacing be maintained throughout the parade. It is not permitted for anyone to stop unless directed to do so by a marshal or a police officer. Drivers of Political Units need to adhere to this rule, as they are not permitted to stop and wait for the politician while he

or she works the crowd. They must maintain the proper spacing and let the politician catch up to them.

**DO NOT STOP ON THE PARADE ROUTE UNLESS DIRECTED TO DO SO.**

**DO NOT THROW ANYTHING FROM YOUR UNIT.** Too many children are hurt running into the street after candy, etc. These are considered guided missiles and cannot be covered by the city insurance. If someone is injured, the responsible party has been deemed to be the driver of the unit. If you wish to share something with the crowd you may have walkers go down the side of the street and HAND it out.

**HORSE UNITS:** All horse units are to enter at the corner of Ellen and Adelaide Street. There should be parking accommodations in the parking lot behind the school. Please arrange for clean up while in the staging area and on the parade route.

All participants are limited to five units of any one type. As an example, classic car clubs may enter several cars owned by different participants. If they enter fifteen, they will be placed in the parade five cars at a time.

As this is a celebration of the country's independence, we would hope you give this proper consideration when decorating your unit. This year is also special in that Fenton is celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday. In recognition, the birthday committee is joining the Freedom Festival parade. Therefore, entries would be appreciated depicting a historical theme.

**Walking units are limited to fifty people.**

**Due to the length of the parade, we must limit business entries to one unit.**

The parade is intended to be a part of an overall fun day, please plan on attending the many other activities planned for the day.

The actual line up will not be established until the last possible moment, so it is not possible to provide your unit number until the morning of the parade. You will be given a number, which will correspond to a number painted on the street. Place the front of your unit at the street number and you will be in the correct position.

When completing the parade entry form, please pay particular attention to the type and size of the unit. This information is used to establish your space in the staging area.

If there is specific information I can provide, please do not hesitate to call me at 629-5092. I am frequently away from the house, but I will call you back.

Again, your participation is most appreciated and certainly will contribute to the enjoyment of the community. We hope to see you on the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, if not before.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, we certainly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Schmidt  
Parade Chairman