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## **It will always take THIS village: Octofair through the years**

### **By Patricia Hibschman**

Octofair is the largest fundraiser for our Resident Association, providing resources for White Horse Village programs and activities for the residents. The Village Fair, as it was known in 1991, was launched outdoors on October 26th under a blanket of fog. The dates would vary until somewhere along the line, it was decided to be the second Saturday in October and be held indoors. It was said that it was the “brainchild” of our White Horse Village gardeners because they needed somewhere to sell their extra fruits, vegetables, and flowers. In 1996, the name Village Fair gave way to Octofair. Many of the booths that we have today could be found in 1991, some with slightly different names or variations.



In 1991, Octofair proudly announced a net profit of \$6592.77! In a well-researched and written 2014 article, resident Ted Snow noted that in its 23 years of existence, Octofair raised over \$402,000. Piecing together net profits since 2014, this event has netted about \$597,155! That revenue comes back to the residents in the form of dozens of cultural programs and activities throughout the year.



What will go down in Octofair history is what Co-Chairs Jen and Paul Shillingford, Committee chairs, team members, and resident volunteers accomplished in 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were determined to keep this tradition alive and did so “in survival mode,” to quote Jen. Attended by residents and staff only, it was mostly nestled under a huge tent in the parking area. This demonstrates the importance of Octofair to this community.

In its 31 years, Octofair has had 85 Chairs and Co-chairs, countless Committee chairs and resident volunteers (see footnote below for a few Octofair Chairs you may recognize). The Committee chairs are vital and help to get the ball rolling organizing, collecting, recruiting, soliciting, etc. Many start months ahead of the event. The success of this endeavor is attributed to not only all Octofair chairs, but also White Horse Village resident volunteers and team members. Team members provide publicity, logistical, and food services, to name just a few. The army of resident volunteers are the glue that holds this event together. Without them, there could be no Octofair.

