



You are invited to come to Clarion, PA to enjoy the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Allegheny Toyota Autumn Leaf Festival™.

What is the “Autumn Leaf Festival™” you ask?

Three gentlemen (Don Stroup, Lee Hufnagel and John “Poe” Haskell) sat around a table and decided to form the Clarion Chamber of Commerce. After electing a secretary, they discussed how they could bring attention to our beautiful town. One of the gentlemen, Lee Hufnagel had been up north to a “Potato Festival” and suggested that Clarion could maybe do a similar type of festival. The three gentlemen thought autumn leaves would be a great idea, thus the Autumn Leaf Festival™ was born in 1953. Their first projects were to create the town swimming pool and joining with the Clarion Teachers College (now PennWest University Clarion Campus) and have the first Autumn Leaf Festival™ Parade. It was a small parade that year with some bands and a few floats and cars.

Soon a couple of businessmen, George Wolf and Russ Hepler, got involved with the parade and were very important to the beginning of the Autumn Leaf Festival™, especially the parade. More and more individuals have stepped up along the way, and the “Tournament of Leaves Parade” is one of the premiere events of the week.

The ALF™ has truly grown from its humble beginnings. There are about 55 events and activities held throughout the entire week for adults and children of all ages. One of the great outcomes of the festival, is that it is tied into Penn West University Clarion Campus Homecoming. Most colleges and universities have a weekend of activity, in Clarion, it is 9 days of food, entertainment, events, and a football game.

So we invite you to “Meet Me On Main” this fall for our 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Allegheny Toyota Autumn Leaf Festival™ slated from Saturday, October 18 through Sunday, October 26. A complete schedule can be found on the Chamber’s website, [clarionpa.com](http://clarionpa.com)