

Style



PLAID FESTIVAL

held in the Village of Alamance

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Melissa Kansky
Multimedia Editor

Village of Alamance residents gathered at Lutheran Church Ball Fields for the fifth annual Plaid Day Festival on Sept. 25. Festivities included face painting, hay rides, horse rides, inflatables, food vendors and live musical entertainment.

"It celebrates our heritage," said Cathera Bundren, the village of Alamance mayor.

Although modern society would not consider the village of Alamance a fashion capital, 150 years ago the town was a leader in the textile industry. Plaid Day celebrates the E.M. Holt Mill, the first manufacturer of the plaid south of the Potomac River. The mill, located along Alamance Creek, produced the plaid pattern, once called "Alamance Plaid."

"As my understanding, a Frenchman came through and was broke," Bundren said.

And he sold the method for the pattern to Mr. Holt for a nominal fee. From there on, all the mills in Alamance County began making colored fabric.

Planning for the festival began in February, Bundren said.

"We started contacting vendors to see if they could come out and sell their wares," she said. "Then we had to get the venue, and the third thing was to make sure we had food vendors as well as selling vendors."

In addition to commercial organization, Kopper Top participated in the town festival and organized activities for younger attendees. Kopper Top Learning Center non-profit organization that provides non-clinical therapy through therapeutic horseback riding, recreational therapy, animal-assisted therapy, and horticulture therapy to individuals with or without disabilities.

"Each year the organizers of the fair ask us to bring the animals out here to interact with the people and give the children and the community an activity," said Deborah Meridith, the executive director of Kopper Top. "So we bring the horses out here and they do pony rides."

Bundren described the atmosphere as festive and said Plaid Day attracted a mixture of both young and old residents.

"The day is significant to me as a 'village-tonian,'" she said. "And it's a chance to meet your neighbors. That's for sure."



ALL PHOTOS BY ALEX TRICE | Photographer
The Plaid Festival is held annually in the Village of Alamance, N.C. Top photo: Musicians perform live bluegrass music. Middle: A young boy plays ball with his friend at the festival. Third from top: A tiger shaped bounce house offers a place for children to play. Fourth from top: Adults help a young girl to finger paint. Bottom left: A young boy rides a Pinto horse from Koppertop.