

Kiwanis traditions continue at Seminole's Pow Wow

Local Kiwanis Clubs host annual pancake breakfast, Fire Truck Pull

By TIFFANY RAZZANO, Tampa Bay Newspapers

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SEMINOLE – In the nearly 50 years since it was founded, the city of Seminole's Pow Wow Festival and Parade has become a staple of the community, one of the largest events of the year.

The Kiwanis Club of Seminole Breakfast and Seminole Kiwanis Club have stepped up to host two highly anticipated events of the weekend – the Pancake Breakfast and the Fire Truck Pull, respectively.

Pancake Breakfast

Since the late 1990s, the Kiwanis Club of Seminole Breakfast's Pancake Breakfast has served as the kick-off to Pow Wow festivities.

While it's typically been held the Saturday morning of Pow Wow weekend, like last year's breakfast, this year's event has been scheduled to take place the Saturday before Pow Wow. So this year's Pancake Breakfast is set for Saturday, March 4, 7 to 11 a.m., at the Holland G. Mangum Recreation Complex, 9100 113th St. N.

The date of the breakfast changed two years ago when construction began at Seminole City Center at the intersection of 113th Avenue and Park Boulevard. This affected the parade route and staging area. In the past, the parade kicked off at the site of the former Seminole Mall, now the Seminole City Center. Parade staging was moved to the St. Petersburg College parking lot, and this affected parking and access to the recreation complex where the Pancake Breakfast is held, said David Green, project chair for the breakfast.

They were uncertain about how the change would affect the event, Green added. While attendance dipped a little bit, the Kiwanis found the change to be for the better.

"Now it's so convenient," Green said. "Our breakfast patrons can literally pull up to the front door of the building."

In the past, parking was an issue because of Pow Wow. So they needed to borrow golf carts to serve as a shuttle service for individuals who couldn't make the walk from far reaches of the SPC parking lot.

"All those worries have gone by the wayside," Green said. "We don't have to worry about traffic. We don't have to worry about golf carts. We have access and parking."

The group will also use the breakfast as the launch of its annual sponsor booklet, featuring information about its year-round events for the community and ongoing sponsors.



From left, Charlene Jasmin, Leah Hoffman and Lee Trador keep the pancakes coming at last year's Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Seminole Breakfast. This year's event will serve as the kick-off for the Pow Wow Festival and Parade, and will be held Saturday, March 4 at the recreation complex.

The breakfast's history goes beyond the Pow Wow. The club actually started the annual event in 1981, Green said. It was held at the Seminole United Methodist Church in its fellowship hall. In the late 1990s, though, they moved the Kiwanis moved the breakfast to the Pow Wow by invitation.

The sponsor booklet actually began in 1981 as a place mat to showcase information about sponsors, Green said. Eventually, they realized it made sense to create a booklet. That first four-page booklet is now a 24-page publication.

"It's grown so much since then," he said. "It just made sense to get information out there about our sponsors and what we do throughout the year."

Cost for the Pancake breakfast is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5 to 10, and free for those 4 and under.

All funds go back to the Kiwanis and are used towards their community programs throughout the year.

For more information, call Green at 727-504-4342.