

Fee Waiver/Board Sponsorship Request Form – Item 5

The Glen Ellen Fair Association holds the Glen Ellen Village Fair, a one-day annual event, on the second Sunday of October to celebrate our community, its residents, and businesses, by holding a street fair from 12 noon to 5pm that commences with a parade. The Fair includes eclectic and diverse vendor booths of arts & crafts, delicious & unique comfort foods & beverages, as well as interesting & informative non-profit booths. There are live local musicians on two stages, one for youth and one for adults. The music and lyrics heard on both stages is quite amazing and entertaining for people of all ages. It's free to all, so we don't really know how many actually attend. We guess it's less than 1000. While wonderfully busy in the first several hours, it gracefully slows down as the sun dips behind the trees in the late afternoon, and is quite relaxing. Then the Main Stage's headlining band brings everyone back to their feet at the end of the day. There are straw bales to sit on throughout the fairgrounds, and a side street designed with the youngest generation in mind, "Kids Alley". It's such a well-received event, that people who have moved away return just to experience it again and again! Every year the Fair holds a raffle. The funds from this raffle allow monetary donations to be made to local charitable organizations within the community. The Board of Directors and the members of the Fair Committee designate where the funds will be distributed at the end of the year.

In the past, the Fair has had a buffer built into our budget to carry us through in case of inclement weather, a rained out event. With the onset of coronavirus and COVID-19, and not knowing just how impactful the virus would be, we soldiered forward like most people and incurred expenses in 2020 without any income to offset them. We know that this hardship touched everyone. Combine that with the long term effect of the post-traumatic stress disorder from the wildfires of 2017 and subsequent years' unrest, and you have untold numbers of people who are seeking a better feeling, a brighter future, a way back to normalcy. The Glen Ellen Fair Association strives each year to unite and uplift its community with this one-day event.

The Board of Directors discussed the impact of raising our vendor booth fees in order to be able to afford to carry on with the Fair this year. We felt that it just wasn't a consideration with so many people already struggling. Instead, we implemented a fundraising campaign and are requesting donations of any amount. We have a tight knit community. We are resilient, and yet we need to be able to lean on each other to gain our strength and find our footing. We hope to be able to hold what will be our 30th Glen Ellen Village Fair on Sunday, October 10th. We don't know what the future holds—but we are moving forward with our event as optimistically as one can in a world rising with new Variants. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Glen Ellen Village Fair Committee, we humbly thank you for your consideration.