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# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL





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years  
OF STRAWBERRY  
FESTIVALS

Crawfordsville  
INDIANA



# 2024 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY

11 a.m. — Opening of the Festival  
11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Flag Day Ceremony  
12:30-1:15 p.m. — Lindsay Lowe  
1:30-3:30 p.m. — Grace Scott Band  
4-5 p.m. — Kasey Burton  
6-7:15 p.m. — Backroad Revival  
7:15-7:30 p.m. — Royalty Introductions  
7:30-8 p.m. — Hometown Heroes Tribute  
8-10 p.m. — The Flying Toasters

• Other events or activities include: Pioneer Tractor Show; Softball Tournament at 6 p.m. at Elston Softball Complex; Cornament at Pike and Water streets

## SATURDAY

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Dance by Debo-rah  
12:15-1 p.m. — Jesse Watson  
1:30-3:30 p.m. — Abbie Thomas Band  
4-5 p.m. — Violin by Olga  
6-7 p.m. — Voice Lessons by Abby  
7-8 p.m. — The Fabulous Ambassa-dors  
8-8:15 p.m. — Royalty Introductions  
8:30-10 p.m. — Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular, Starring Shawn Klush

• Other events or activites include: Pioneer Tractor Show; Corvette Show 12-5 p.m.; Softball Tournament at Elston Fields; 5K Run 6:30-7:30 a.m. with registration at the City Building; Tennis Tournament at Crawfordsville and Southmont high schools; Corna-ment at Pike and Water streets

## SUNDAY

10:30-11:30 a.m. — Church service  
12-1:30 p.m. — Crawfordsville Acade-my of Dance  
2-4 p.m. — The Leadsman  
• Other events or activities include: Pioneer Tractor Show; Ben Hur Car Club Show 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Softball Tournament at Elston Fields; Tennis Tournament at Crawfordsville and Southmont high schools; Versiti Blood Center of Indiana Mobile

### THE FLYING TOASTERS

The Flying Toasters is an electrifying entertainment band known for their dynamic performances and eclectic rep-ertoire spanning various musical genres. Whether it's a corporate event, wedding, or festival, The Flying Toasters bring the party to life with their infectious enthusi-asm and unparalleled stage presence.

### ABBIE THOMAS

Independent singer-songwriter, Ab-bie Thomas, mixes pop melodies with soulful vocals and hints of Blues, R&B, Jazz, and a vibe from the songwriters of the 70's. Touring regionally, she has most recently opened for Laine Hardy, Girl Named Tom, and Cathy Richard-son of Jefferson Starship.

### ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST SPECTACU-LAR STARRING SHAWN KLUSH

Shawn Klush is back by overwhelm-ing Popular Demand to this wonderful Family Oriented Festival. The show will open with the Fabulous Ambas-sadors Band from Chicago featuring the Nashville Dreams, followed by an incredible Tribute to Elvis Presented by the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist, Shawn Klush.



Enjoy the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Strawberry Festival!

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# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS

## 5K RUN/WALK

If you like to run, we have just the thing for you, the Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival 5K Race and 1K Kiddie Romp sponsored by Franciscan Health and Physicians Network on Saturday.

The 5K Race is open to any male or female runner in good physical condition. Runners will check in at the Crawfordsville City Building located at the intersection of North Water and East Pike streets. The running course will close for 45 minutes after the start of the race.

Overall male and female top three finishers will receive \$100, \$60 and \$35 awards, respectively. Each Division First Place finisher will receive a \$10 award. All prizes will be handed out at the completion of the event and you must be present to receive your award. Souvenir T-shirts will be given to all preregistered competitors.

After the 5K Race results have been tabulated, a 1K Kiddie Romp for ages 9 and younger will be held at the Crawfordsville City Building. Appropriate awards will be presented.

For complete 5K Run/Walk information and registration form, visit online at <https://crawfordsvillestrawberryfest.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Strawberry-5K-Application.pdf>.

## BLOOD DRIVE

The Strawberry Festival Bloodmobile will be at 212 S. Water St. on Sunday, June 16 for donations. Reserve a time slot online at [https://donate.indiana.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/167734](https://donate.indiana.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/167734)

## CAR SHOWS

If you like cars, old or new, this is the place to be.



### Antique and Classic Cars

If you are interested in older cars, we've got you covered. The Ben Hur Car Club will again be hosting their Strawberry Festival Car Show from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday. More than 150 classic cars and trucks are expected for this popular yearly event.

Registration is from 8 a.m. until noon Sunday at the corner of Pike and Washington streets. The fee is \$15. A voluntary donation of two cans of food per entry is requested to go to the local F.I.S.H. food pantry.

The vehicle display areas will be on Pike Street from Washington Street to Green Street and on Green Street from St. John's Episcopal Church north to Main Street and all parking lots in between. The first 100 entries will receive dash plaques and judged awards will be presented to the "Top 40" entries at 3 p.m. along with the "Best of Show Award."

Other features include a 50/50 drawing along with music by DJs Wes and Diana Shelton.

For more information, you can contact Steve Zachary at 765-225-1279 or Tom Durbin at 765-307-2242.

## COREVETTE CAR SHOW

Is there anyone who's never dreamed of driving along the countryside in a sleek Corvette? New or old, you can see what you've been missing from noon to 5 p.m. Satur-

day. For more information contact Scott Voliva by email at [scottvoliva@hotmail.com](mailto:scottvoliva@hotmail.com).

## CORNHOLE

Join Trinity Life Ministry for its Third Annual Cornament (Corn Hole Tournament). This year there will be two separate tournaments — a recreational tournament for those looking to play at a leisurely pace and a competitive tournament to test your skills against the best. The recreational tourney is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday and the competitive tourney is 1-3 p.m.

Register online at <https://trinitylifeministry.kindful.com/e/2024-cornament>.

## PIONEER TRACTOR SHOW

If you like antique tractors, this is the place to be. Once again, the Montgomery County Pioneer Association will have numerous antique tractors on display on Pike Street all three days of the festival. Tractors of all ages will be present. Even if you are a "city" person, these machines are impressive and show how equipment has changed over the years.

## SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The largest off-site event is the Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival Softball Tourney with participating

teams from all over the state. This year's tournament play will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday and will end around 6 p.m. Sunday. Games will be played at the Elston Softball Complex featuring different classes of competition.

Between games, players and their families can travel the short distance to the Lane Place, site of the Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival. Youngsters can enjoy the Children's Area while parents can explore the Arts & Crafts Area and take in the free entertainment on the main stage. Everyone can discover the many wonderful food treats on the Food Court. Make it a total family fun weekend.

For complete information and entry forms, contact Bob Cash at home at 765-364-0748 or on his cell at 765-376-8546.

## TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Another popular off-site event is the Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival Tennis Tournament, with many individuals participating in various classifications and divisions.

Matches will be played Saturday and Sunday at Crawfordsville High School. Awards will be presented for different divisions.

Grab your racket and head to Crawfordsville for some fun, food, entertainment and good tennis.

For complete tournament information, contact Jason Hutchison by email at [hutch3575@gmail.com](mailto:hutch3575@gmail.com) or check out the entry form online at <https://crawfordsvillestrawberryfest.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Strawberry-Festival-Tennis-Flyer.pdf>.





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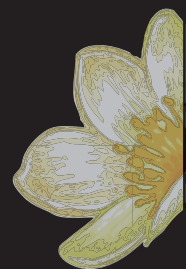
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CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN





# FIFTY YEARS OF CELEBRATION - 1974-2024

Several of us on the festival committee have been involved with the Strawberry Festival since the early 1980's. Doesn't seem like that long ago I helped Mike and Jolly Fishero build the stage up by the front entrance to the Lane Place house. Meeting people like Jane Kesler with the historical society and Pat Cline with the Journal Review was certainly an honor, even though at the time I barely knew any of them. But I soon learned!

It was an interesting first year — I just remember sitting under the canopy by the stage and watching it rain straight through the weekend and never selling anything, let alone staying dry. I certainly have never regretted the decision to stick with the festival all these years, but I did have to wait until my clothes dried out before making such a huge commitment. It really was easy because working with the Strawberry Festival committee is one of the most pleasing parts of the festival. What a great group of dedicated,

community minded, and giving group of individuals.

Today our budget of approximately \$135,000 compares to our budget of \$3,000 some 40 years ago. Quite a change! Many years ago we made the decision to try to enter the world of NAME entertainment and it went over well. However, to enter that world our budget went to \$35,000 for entertainment. Makes one a little nervous when you think about those numbers and the weather! We have many groups and businesses in our county that help us financially with the entertainment budget. Our hats are off to their dedication to the festival. We have consistently raised \$15,000 with the fundraising efforts toward entertainment. The other \$20,000 needed comes from the 18% we make off the sale of food and tickets in the Children's Area. It works, as long as the weather works!

I think one of the major decisions the

committee had to deal with was the purchase of a stage. In 1997 we did purchase a stage. It helped with cutting our expenses toward entertainment. However, when disaster struck the state fair several years ago it made it impossible for us to continue with our own stage. We could not use it unless the lighting and roof on the stage was attached permanently to the platform. That was a real blow to lose the use of the stage, and it still hurts today!

Every year several people will say to me — "why don't you move the festival to the park where there is more room?" I think there are two answers to that question. First, it belongs at the Lane Place. Go back to Governor Henry Lane and his wife. They hosted an ice cream social with strawberries on the grounds of his mansion. That's when it really started, although we really couldn't find anyone to testify to that time frame. The second answer is looking at the infrastructure of

the grounds. There are 10 two hundred amp electric service panels made available to the vendors as well as the water lines that were buried several years ago. That was done by many of our community and committee volunteers. Almost an impossible task to move all of it.

So every year we look forward to another "Strawberry Festival" moment. June couldn't be a better time to host the event. Everyone looks forward to coming out of winter and just getting ready for summer (and eating strawberries of course). Perfect timing, just like the weather is going to be at this year's festival! So, as we now know the Strawberry Festival, come out and celebrate the 50th and have fun! Eat some good food, enjoy the entertainment, do some shopping and spend some money on your kids! Go for it!

Paul Pfladderer contributed this article to the Journal Review.

## THE HISTORY OF THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Today's Strawberry Festival is a far cry from what Joanna Lane envisioned in June 1875.

Joanna, along with women from the Methodist Episcopal Church, organized a half-day community celebration to be held on the lawn of the Lane Place — admission was 10 cents. And guess what, strawberries were the focal point of the gathering.

In 1975, Jane Kessler and Pat Cline organized a modern day version of Joanna's Strawberry Festival. Jane and Pat organized a half-day event that featured strawberries as well as sandwiches and drinks. Very soon after the 1975 version of the "Strawberry Festival," local artisans began to display their talents by adding an art show to the festival that soon became an all-day celebration. By the early 1980s, children's activities, entertainment and a Sunday morning worship service were added to the festival which by then had expanded to three days.

Crowds of 15,000 to 20,000 have become commonplace.

• • •

From an afternoon event to a three day festival!

### The Beginning

June 12, 1878 — organized by Joanna Lane

500 people attended on the lawn of the Lane Place

Ladies of Methodist Episcopal Church sold admission tickets for 10 cents.

Wooden stage — speeches, skits, various musical programs

Tables were placed about the grounds with cakes and strawberries and ice cream for visitors.

### The Middle "Strawberry Bowl Festival"

1974 — afternoon only

1975 — one day event

Montgomery County Council of Arts

### — Art Show

Culver Hospital served strawberries, cake and ice cream

Downtown on the courthouse veranda and adjoining areas

Musical entertainment & talent contest

Indiana State Tourism committee visited Crawfordsville — historic "Athens of Indiana" authors, architecture, etc.

Jane Kessler — member of MCHS — discussed bringing Crawfordsville to prominence with the committee, her dream was to expand the event and link it to local history.

Pat Cline spearheaded changes to the festival

1977 — Dorman Winger preached his first church service on the grounds

1982 — Now a two-day event on the grounds and three days downtown, Jane Kessler's dream prevailed after seven years of work.

### The Expanded Festival

Included museum tours, St. John's Episcopal Church, and some historic homes in the community.

Antique show at the 4-H grounds, tours to the airport, style show, basketball at park & rec center, volleyball tourney at Elston Park, parade, Indianapolis newscasts on site, children's fence painting, etc.

1983 — expanded to three days at the Lane Place

Current day is a three day event that includes — entertainment, arts and craft vendors, commercial booth vendors, food vendors, children's entertainment, 5K Run/Walk, Blood Drive, Car Show, Cornhole, Queen Contest, Softball Tournament, Tennis Tournament, Tractor Show

2024 — Celebrating five decades of community and flavor at the Crawfordsville, Indiana Strawberry Festival's 50th Anniversary.





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Eggs x Pancakes x Bacon.....	2x2x2 - \$8 / 3x3x3 - \$10
Avocado Toast.....	\$9
Build Your Own Omelette.....	2 eggs - \$6 / 3 eggs - \$7
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# CHILDREN'S AREA CELEBRATION

Celebrating 50 years is quite a milestone! It's exciting to see how the Children's Area has grown over the last 50 years! It started in 1974 with about 4 vendors/booths and now we host 33 vendors. We have great representation from our Crawfordsville and Montgomery County community as well as other areas. Several organizations have been with us for more than 25 years. We would like to highlight a few of those long timers!

- Psi Iota Xi features their Ring Toss. It is extremely popular and there is always a line. The proceeds from their booth supports their Summer Speech Clinic.

- Dennis & Liz Pickering bring Pick's Dog House (Moonwalk) and the Maze. Both are very well supervised and are geared to the younger children.

- John Oilar, a well-known artist, sketches many children during the week-

end as well as adults. He is assisted by his wife, Diane.

- Pony Rides are a big hit. Monty Eldridge has offered pony rides as long as we can remember. He prides himself in keeping your children safe.

- CACHE (Crawfordsville Area Christians Helping Each Other) has the popular Fish Booth. CACHE is a Montgomery County Homeschool Organization that is non-profit and has been active in our county since the 1980'S. The proceeds from their booth goes to support the homeschoolers and their mission.

We know this is only a few of the many organizations, banks, and churches that are represented every year and offer a wide variety of fun for the youth. As with the highlighted long timers, the proceeds from their activities support their many

worthwhile causes and everyone helps to keep the festival alive and well year after year. We thank our participants for sharing their weekend with us.

Along with our vendors we are offering other special events -

We have invited Marcus Lehmann, the Magician, to our 50th celebration. Marcus mesmerized his audiences for many, many years on the Gazebo before semi-retiring. This year he will be strolling the Children's Area on Saturday, the 15th, starting at 1:00pm. We are excited to have Marcus back with us!

Other spot-lighted events are -

Mermazing Princess Parties is featuring Blossom the Fairy for a Meet & Greet on Friday, the 14th, from 4:00-5:30pm and Saturday, the 15th, from 3:00-4:30pm.

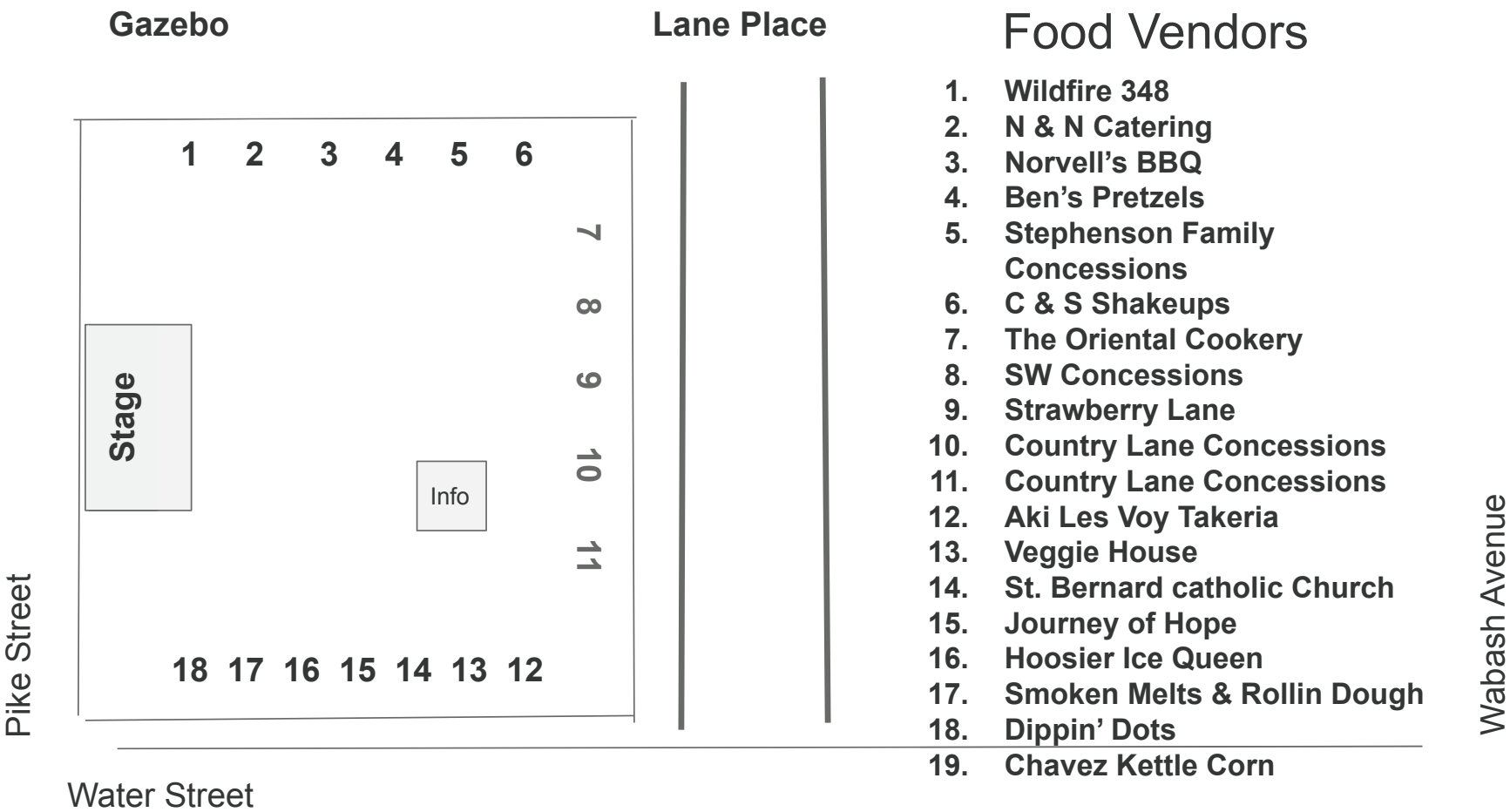
Free Pixie dusting and free photos.

Random House is helping us celebrate our 50th anniversary with a free children's book giveaway on the Gazebo on Friday, the 14th from 11am - 4pm and Saturday, the 15th from 10:00am - 3:00PM. Joining them on the Gazebo to read to the children is our Queen and Court (Queen - Peri McClaskey, 1st Runner Up - Ellie Walker, 2nd Runner Up - Emma

Leonhardt and Miss Congeniality - Katherine Novak). They will be reading on Friday at 12noon and Saturday at 10:30am. Please join us for story time.

A special thank you to all the volunteers that make the Children's Area a success. The Queen and her court spend many hours helping in the Children's Area and the children love seeing them and posing for a picture.!

## CONCESSIONS MAP







# Country Hearts And Flowers



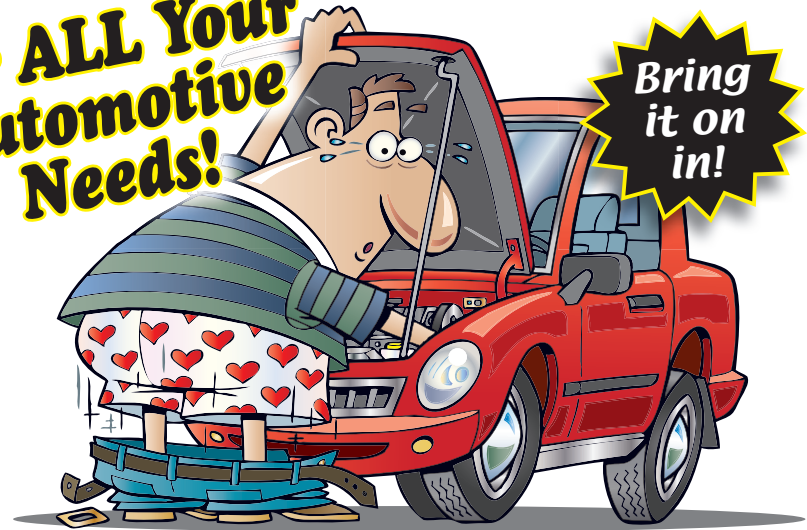
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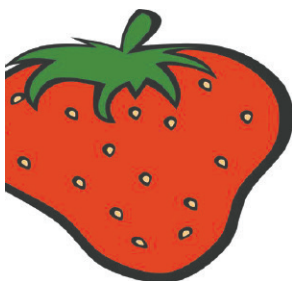
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# 50 Years!

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Pickle Pizza, Cheesy Garlic  
Bread, Chocolate Taco
2. **N & N Catering**  
Philly Steak & Cheese, Italian  
Sausage, Polish Sausage,  
Corn Dogs, Hamburgers,  
Cheese on a Stick
3. **Norvell's BBQ**  
Ribs, Chicken, Pulled Pork,  
Rib Tips, BBQ Nachos, Italian  
Sausage
4. **Ben's Pretzels**  
Pretzels, Pretzel Bites,  
Shake-ups, Tea
5. **Stephenson Family  
Concessions**  
Corn Dogs, Giant Breaded  
Tenderloin, Chicken Tenders,  
Cheese on a Stick, Fries,  
Nachos, Funnel Cakes,
6. **Crone's Shakeups**  
Lemon & Strawberry Shake  
Ups

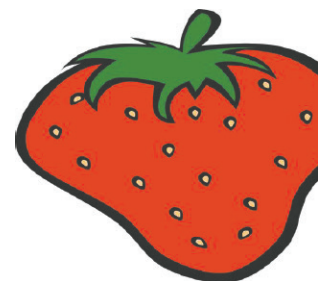


# MENU

7. **The Oriental Cookery**  
Pork Kabob, Fried Rice, Egg  
Roll, Lo Mein
8. **SW Concessions**  
Steak Tips, Krazy Fries,  
Steak Sandwich, Loaded  
Nacho, Ribbon Fries
9. **Strawberry Lane**  
The Works, Strawberries, Ice  
Cream, Cake
10. **Country Lane Concessions**  
Strawberry Smoothie,  
Chocolate Covered  
Cheesecake, Sno Cones
11. **Country Lane Concessions**  
Caramel Apples/Bananas.  
Lemon Shake up,
12. **Aki Les Voy Takeria**  
Takos, Asada, Gringo, Corn,  
Tamales, Jarritos

# 50 Years!

13. **Veggie House**  
Onion Rings, Mushrooms,  
Pickles,  
Cauliflower, Broccoli, Giant  
Breaded Tenderloin, Fries
14. **St. Bernard Catholic Church**  
Churros,Chicharones, Steak  
Nachos, Nachos, Fresca
15. **Journey of Hope**  
Elephant Ears
16. **Hoosier Ice Queen**  
Hawaiian Shave Ice,  
Strawberry Cheesecake,  
Shark Attack
17. **Smokin Melts & Rollin Dough**  
BBQ Grilled Cheese, Tater's,  
Cousin, Chicken Bacon Ranch  
Cole Slaw, Cinnamon Rolls
18. **Dippin' Dots**  
Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough,  
, Banana Split, Rainbow Ice,  
Cotton Candy, Oreo
19. **Chavez Kettle Corn**  
Kettle Corn, Caramel Corn,  
Lemon Shake-up



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## A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, round, woven basket filled with fresh, ripe strawberries. The strawberries are bright red with visible seeds and green leafy tops. The background is a plain, light color.



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