

Harvest Stroll

Downtown Plainwell

Downtown Plainwell Scarecrow, Harvest and Sculpture Contest



Rules and Entry Form

The contest is open to:

All ages Schools Clubs Artists Organizations Churches
Youth Groups Families Businesses Individuals Nonprofits

Any individual, group, or business can enter the contest. There is no fee to enter the contest. The displays will be up through October downtown affixed to a lamp post, staged in front of your business, or affixed to a bench along North and South Main, and E. Bridge St. on M89, and the downtown plaza. Locations nearest the participating business location will be accommodated as much as possible.

- Displays can start going up on Monday, September 28, 2026
- Voting takes place Monday, October 12 – Friday, October 23, 2026 at 4pm
- Displays must be removed by Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Official rules and regulations:

1. **Complete an entry form** indicating the title and a description of the display. Provide your contact information and location preference if you are a business participant. Efforts will be made to install it close to your business. A written description of your entry and title must accompany your OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM. (Can be picked up at City Hall) **The City of Plainwell reserves the right to refuse an entry that we feel may be offensive to the general public.**
2. **Return the entry form** to: Plainwell City Hall - 211 N. Main St. by Friday, September 28, 2026 **prior to putting up your display.**
3. **Include the name of the participant/business on the display** in some way so it can be identified (pinned, labeled, etc.).
4. If you need help attaching your display to its assigned location the week of October 5, please let us know. Arrangements can be made with our DPW with prior notice. The displays will remain up through Monday, November 2, 2026. All displays (mainly scarecrows) will be secured by zip ties or string, **no metal or wire is allowed on any downtown light pole, fixture, or bench.**

5. Awards: There will be bragging rights for the Best in Show and People's Choice Awards. Judging will be conducted via online voting form.
The winners will be announced at the City Council meeting on **Monday, November 12, 2025**.
6. **STRUCTURE:** If creating a Scarecrow, it must have horizontal support of wood for the body (2"x4" post preferred). This support is needed if the scarecrow will be attached to a steel light post for display. Please do not use perishable goods as part of the construction of your piece. Hay bales can be used for the bodies as well or any other material, as long as it has a solid base for display purposes. Other displays can include pumpkins, hay bales, wooden frames, etc.
7. **SIZE:** Minimum height 3', and displays cannot be taller than 5' 7" if placed along M89 and Main St.
8. **DISPLAY:** For voting purposes, a number will be assigned to your entry, but you can provide an 11x17-inch sign that is attached to the front of your design. This sign will include your scarecrow's name and description, your business/organization name, and 30 words or less advertising your business, organization, and group, if applicable.
9. **Displays must be removed by Tuesday, November 3, 2026;** If they are not city staff will remove them beginning Wednesday, November 4, 2026 and they become the sole property of the City of Plainwell.
10. To qualify, your display **MUST BE WEATHER-RESISTANT**. The City reserves the right to remove any scarecrows or sculptures that do not hold up to the natural elements.

A few Entries from previous years:





Scarecrow/Harvest Entry Form – 2026

Name/Business Name

Address

City

Zip

Phone

Cell Phone

Email

☐ My City of Plainwell business is participating, and I wish to display my masterpiece in front of my business location at _____

☐ I'm a business outside the City/organization/family/individual and I will need a location to display my scarecrow

Title of Entry: _____

Description: _____

Signature: _____

By signing above, I understand and agree to all the rules outlined in the above pages.

This form MUST BE returned by Friday, October 2, 2026 - before the setup of your entry to:
Plainwell City Hall, 211 N. Main Street, Plainwell, MI. 49080. Please direct questions to
Penny Soper, (269)685-6821, psoper@plainwell.org Mon – Fri 8am – 4pm. Don't forget to label
your creation with your contact information! HAVE FUN!