

5th Anniversary – Baraboo’s Big Top Parade & Circus Celebration Saturday, July 22nd, 2017

This July 22nd, the Baraboo Community celebrates the 5th anniversary of the **Big Top Parade and Circus Celebration** in downtown Baraboo. For this monumental year, the Parade will honor all of current and former members of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, by naming them the parade’s grand marshals.

Responding to the January, 2017 announcement that the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey touring circus will close after 146 years, the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce, Circus World, the International Clown Hall of Fame, Sauk County Historical Society, Al Ringling Theater, Al Ringling Mansion and the Ringling House Bed and Breakfast wanted to recognize all of the people who have made that show a reality. These partners have come together and have created a colossal and captivating celebration complete with a copious cavalcade of colorful capers, crowning cast and crowds in a complete circle of contagious charm and certifiable cheerfulness.

Baraboo will be all-things-circus the weekend of, July 20-23. The **Big Top Parade & Circus Homecoming** will feature concerts, children’s activities, carnival games, food vendors and live performances. The main event - the **Big Top Parade** - on Saturday, July 22, kicks off at 11:00 a.m. Along with our grand marshals, the parade features over 75 traditional circus parade units and circus-theme entries created by community groups and businesses.

For more information about **Baraboo’s Big Top Parade & Circus Celebration**, call the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce at 608-356-8333 or toll-free 1-800-227-2266 or visit

<http://www.bigtopparade.com>

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Marching Band

These musicians aren’t just clowning around. The Baraboo High School Marching Band, complete in clown costume, takes to the streets in Baraboo’s Big Top Parade, celebrating the south-central Wisconsin community’s rich circus heritage. Photo courtesy of Mike Heath.

Cole Bros. “America” Steam Calliope No. 76

“America” is the second of the two surviving 1903 Barnum & Bailey continent-themed tableau wagons. Cleaver-Brooks of Milwaukee presented the wagon to Circus World in 1959 as a feature for the Museum’s first season. The wagon has been restored to appear as it did on the 1940 Cole Bros. Circus. Photo courtesy of Bill Johnsen.

Al. G Barnes Tableau No. 181

This tableau wagon was built for the Al G. Barnes Circus which used it from 1921 through 1926. The elephant carvings were presented to Circus World in 1969, and placed on a new wagon body in 1987. Photo courtesy of Bill Johnsen.

Cole Bros. Air Calliope No. 82 – Tom Williams

This magnificent wagon was built around 1915 to carry an air calliope for Fred Buchanan's Yankee Robinson Circus. Found in shambles in 1950, the wagon was given to Circus World in 1965 and has been beautifully restored. Photo courtesy of Tom Williams.

Two Clowns

What's a parade without clowns? Baraboo's Big Top Parade features clowns on foot, clowns on circus wagons, clowns in car, clowns on bikes and even clowns on trikes. Photo courtesy of Bill Johnsen.

Wild Rumpus Circus Photos

Learning circus skills and becoming a circus performing "star" in the moment are among the fun activities available to children and youth during Baraboo's Big Top Parade & Circus Celebration. Performances and circus skills opportunities are offered by Mazo Movement Arts Center and its Wild Rumpus Circus, of Mazomanie, Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of Mazo Movement Arts Center.