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## **MR. PIEROGI MAIN MASCOT**



## **BIOGRAPHY**

Since the beginning of the Whiting Indiana Pierogi Festival, there has been a Mr. Pierogi. The same man has served his town every year since the festival's start 16 years ago.

When asked about how the Pierogi Fest came to be, Mr. Pierogi says, "My wife left me 15 years ago for Mr. Kraut, so they threw me a party to cheer me up and that became Pierogi Fest."

As the main pastry mascot, Mr. Pierogi has many responsibilities during the weekend event. He attends and participates in the International Polka Parade, Polkahontas Polka Contest and Mr. Pierogi Songfest. Pierogi also enjoys chatting and taking pictures with festivalgoers.

On Friday, he leads the International Polka Parade, which kicks off the three-day event. Waving to the gathered crowd, Mr. Pierogi shares the float with Ms. Paczki and Halupki Guy. Many quirky parade participants such as the Twirling Babushka Brigade and the Precision Lawn-Mower Drill Team follow the royal Pierogi Fest pastries.

As an impartial bystander, Mr. Pierogi judges the Polkahontas Polka Contest along with Ms. Paczki. First place is awarded to the couple with the best polka moves.

The Mr. Pierogi Songfest is presented on Saturday. He sings for and MCs the event along with the Pierguettes. Popular and well-known song beats are paired with lyrics about food served at the festival and the cultures represented.

A new feature of the fair allows you to follow Mr. Pierogi around the festival via Facebook. To make sure that his adoring fans can find him anywhere, Mr. Pierogi keeps everybody updated on social media. This way they can come and say hi to the man in the Pierogi costume.

Throughout the festival, Mr. Pierogi keeps the atmosphere friendly and upbeat. He is truly a festival icon and will continue to be for years to come.

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