

Fallfest kicks off tonight with parade on Main St. By Megen Wessel, Times Staff Writer
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The mayor and council president of Paide, Estonia, Westminster's sister-city, and veteran sportscaster Vince Bagli will serve as grand marshals of this year's parade, which begins at 7 p.m. at Dutterers Family Park on Monroe Street and ends at East Middle School.

According to Westminster City Recreation, the parade is the largest in the county, attracting more than 1,000 participants and about 5,000 spectators.

The festival starts Thursday with Super Ride Night from 4-10 p.m. at Westminster City Park off Longwell Avenue in Westminster.

For \$12, visitors can get six hours of nonstop riding.

The festival continues from 6-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Midnight Madness, with downtown shopping from 6 p.m. to midnight, will take place on Friday.

In addition to craft and commercial vendors, nightly entertainment, costume characters, a petting zoo, pony rides, games and food will be available.

Fallfest first started in 1978 on Main Street to celebrate the revitalization of downtown. Today, it has grown to attract more than 40,000 people over the five-day festival.

Each year, several charities benefit from the proceeds of Fallfest.

Last year \$5,000 checks were presented to four nonprofit organizations.

This year The Carroll County Children's Fund, The Westminster Kiwanis Club, Mission of Mercy and Residents Attacking Drugs will be the beneficiaries.

The festival is free and open to the public. For more information, call Westminster City Recreation at 410-848-6962 or visit the Web site at www.westminsterfallfest.com.

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