

Boone seniors appreciate picnic

By Mark Hansel • mhansel@nky.com • September 15, 2010

An overflow crowd attended the annual Boone County Senior Citizens Picnic at the Boone County Fairgrounds on Wednesday.

The popular event always sells out quickly, with request for tickets far outweighing the supply.

"They really treat you super here," Pat Kline of Union said. "Everyone is so friendly and it's one of the few events that is just for us."

Tickets are capped at 1,000 but organizers say there are always seems to be a few more than that on hand.

Kline, 72, has been coming to the event since she moved to Boone County 11 years ago.

"You run into people you only see once a year here," she said.

The event started 23 years ago in the backyard of Irene Patrick, who was then a Boone County Commissioner.

The picnic, and the county's senior population, have grown quite a bit since then.

There were 4,750 seniors in Boone County in 1990 and 16,730 in 2009, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Northern Kentucky Area Development District.

The surge in the senior population has prompted talk of offering more tickets, but the event already takes months to plan and the picnic area at the fairgrounds fills to capacity.

"We'd like to add more, but where would we put them?" Sherri Neu, the event organizer for the

last three years, said.

Neu, executive assistant for the Boone County Fiscal Court, said capping the number helps ensure the people who attend are comfortable and get good service.

The picnic is sponsored by the Boone County Fiscal Court and Boone County Judge-executive Gary Moore said it continues to be a success because of donations from area businesses and the efforts of more than 100 volunteers.

"This is probably the smoothest things have ever gone," Moore said. "That's a tribute to the great work of the picnic committee and all of the people who work so hard on it."

This year's theme was a "Grand Ole Seniors Picnic" and activities included live entertainment, lunch, door prizes and bingo.

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