

Thank you for joining us for the 6th annual Warren County Hot Air Balloons, Arts & Crafts Festival at Warren Community College. Wow! Time flies when you're having fun!

A little history of this event: It was 26 years ago when my husband, Fred, and I started the ballooning event at the Warren County Farmers' Fair in the little town of Harmony. Fred was a lifelong resident of this nearby town and attended the Fair every year. One day, Fred suggested the Fair bring in hot air balloons to attract more visitors. He loved to fly anything and everything. He was 58 when he first took up paragliding — and that wasn't even the most amazing part. That same year, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's.

Fred had an unbreakable spirit and never said no to his dreams. In 2020, when the Fair was cancelled, I worked with our longtime sponsor, Warren Community College, to host a balloon event, so people would not forget about the Fair the following year. As you can imagine, it was challenging. But I was inspired by how Fred never let anything stop him — not even his diagnosis. His legacy of courage and passion still fuels this festival.

Fred also loved learning. He would be having a blast if he were here today — enjoying the patriotic rockets, drones, music, good food, and of course, those beautiful hot air balloons! He was inspired by so many things, but he also inspired others. This year, as America celebrates its 250th anniversary, we decided to introduce a new logo that says "Inspire the Future." I truly believe the opportunities Warren Community College provides to our local youth can do exactly that. If you get a chance, please visit the WarrenUAS booth and see what they've been building.

While you're here, take time to enjoy the campus, including the 1.2-mile walking trail. Visit the Meditation Garden — a serene space for relaxation and reflection — and stop by the 9/11 Memorial.

This festival is a testament to the hard work and dedication of many individuals and groups. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our hosts, sponsors, pilots, crew members, robot builders and their humans, volunteers, teachers, and local government officials. We are especially grateful to the local fire departments, EMTs, and police personnel — both on-site and on-call — for keeping everyone safe.

Proceeds from the event support three meaningful causes: the Warren County Community College Foundation, the Fred Grotenhuis Scholarships, and the Fred T. Grotenhuis Veterans Community Center project.

Thank you to all our supporters for making the Balloon Festival in beautiful Warren County such a success. And to all of you who came out to support us — a huge thank you!

With love and gratitude,
Giulia Grotenhuis

Warren County Hot Air Balloons, Arts & Crafts Festival

June 6 & 7, 2026

Hosted by **Warren County Community College**
475 Route 57, Washington, NJ



DAILY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

1-5 PM Hot Rides Hot Rides & Hot Air Balloons Car & Truck Show (Saturday) 12 - 1 pm - registration

1-8:30 PM Arts & Crafts, Vendors, Games, Food Trucks Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy a day out in the country on the beautiful campus lawn.

1 PM Chalk Art Contest* Check out art created by contestants on Saturday.

1-5 PM Children's Entrepreneur Market (Saturday) Experience the magic of young minds taking flight at the Children's Entrepreneur Market. Support these young entrepreneurs running their own businesses for the day.

1-6 PM Check out the WarrenUAS Tent Everyone wants to know more about drones these days. Check out WarrenUAS and learn about the college's Drone/Robotics/AI program, training students for high paying jobs in a variety of industries.

1-7 PM Fascination Place* Enjoy making crafts, playing puzzles & games. *Sponsored in part by Land of Make Believe*

1-8 PM June Jumble Combat Robots Combat starts at 11 am, prior to event open. Feel free to stop in earlier.

2-5 PM Rocket Ready* Build and design a patriotic rocket and see how far it will fly!

2-4 PM The magic & comedy of **Balloons the Clown**

2-5 PM (Saturday) Strolling - **Dulcimers***

2-5 PM (Sunday) StoneHearth Bluegrass Band* Bluegrass band featuring guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, dobro, bass and tight multipart harmonies. Covering Bluegrass, Classic Country and Popular music as well as their own compositions.

3-4:30 PM (Saturday) The Pro Kids Holiday Vocal Troupe* These professional working kids & teens share their incredible voices and harmonies with the community and charitable organizations, for festivals, children and senior events, and more throughout the New York City tri-state area.

3-5 PM (Sunday) Strolling - **The Road Less Traveled Barbershop Quartet***

3 - 6 PM Grins and Grins Learn how to juggle!

4:30 PM Tethered Rides (tentative start time, weather permitting) Get tickets at the Balloon Ride Tent. Tickets go on sale 1 hour before start time, based on weather of the day. \$30 adult \$20 youth ages 4-12

5-8 PM (Saturday) Na'bodach* Celtic Music

5:30 - 7:30 PM (Sunday) Easton School of Rock Bank Street Band* The band is a collection of students from the Easton School of Rock that represent the school and the program. The school's goal is to get the kids in front of as many people as they can.

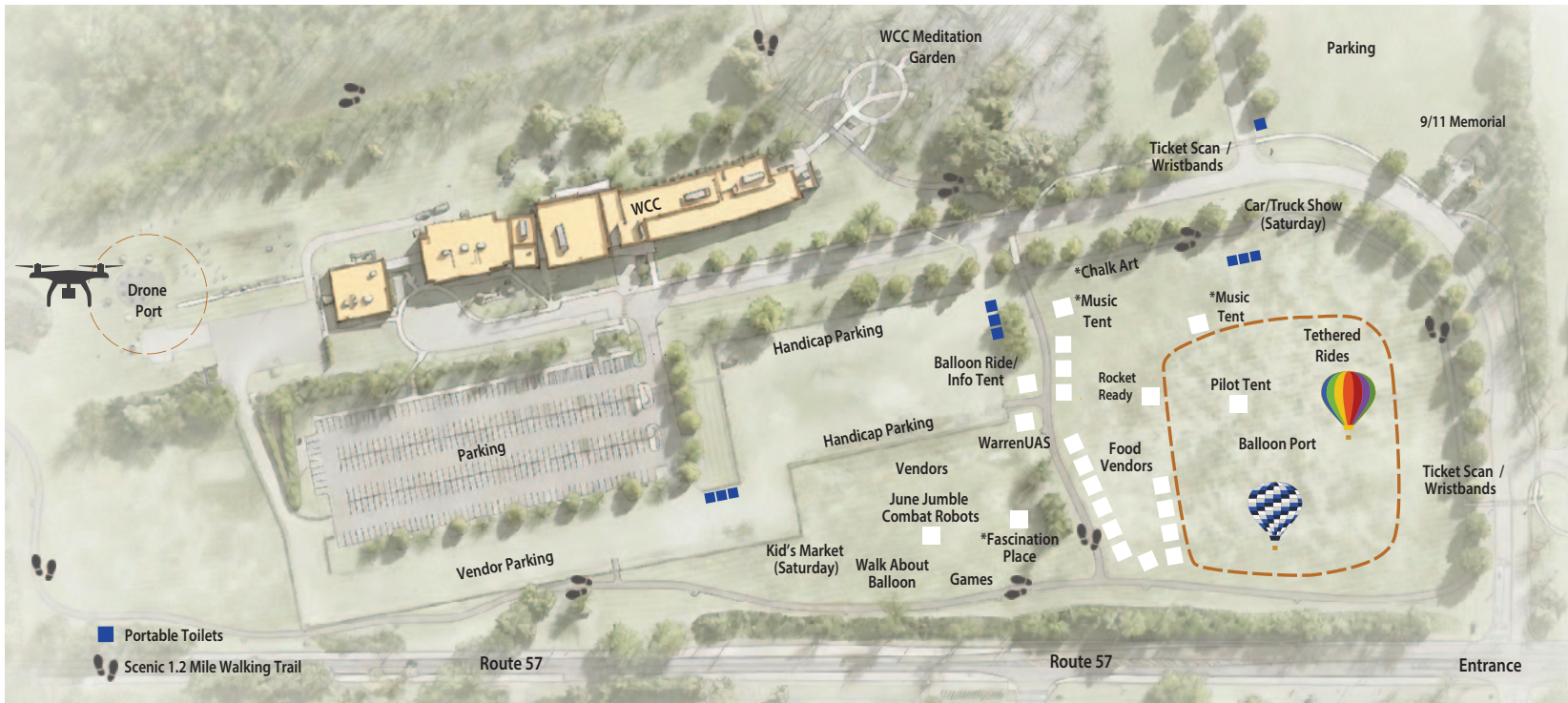
6:30 PM Hot Air Balloon Inflation and Launch (May be delayed by current weather)

7:15 PM Meet the Pilots Pilots and student pilots will be on the field to talk balloons with visitors!

7:30 PM The Big Birthday Cake special shape balloon - help us celebrate America's 250 as we inflate this giant birthday cake and light it up.

8 PM Fred G Monster special shape balloon invades
Schedule Subject to Change. Balloons Weather Permitting

* Made possible with funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through the Warren Co. Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.



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