

The 2011 MUMMERS PARADE

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See it all here

If you've got six or more hours, you can see the entire parade at Washington Avenue. Comic clubs start marching here at 10 a.m.; the String Bands perform for three hours, arriving at about 12:30 p.m. And the Fancy Brigades leave the parade here.

Where the Wenches are

Six Wench clubs — those rowdy guys in dresses — will step off after the three Comics divisions. They traipse through South Philadelphia and enter from the east at Broad and Washington about 10:30 a.m. The lavish Fancy Division clubs enter Broad Street at Moore, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Other show-off spots

There are six designated performance areas for this year's parade, although not all divisions perform at each, with the exception of Washington Avenue. Other good places to view the show are Broad and Shunk, Broad and Ritner (near Thomas Jefferson University Methodist Hospital Division), Broad and Pine, Broad and Sansom, and the judging area near City Hall.

String Bands at Marconi Plaza

Fans get their first look at the String Bands here — at Broad Street between Oregon Avenue and Bigler Street — as they assemble and rehearse before the parade begins. The first band, Pennsport, steps off at 11 a.m.

Here come the judges

The 17 String Bands and the Comics and Fancies face the judges at 15th and Market streets. The Fancy Brigades will be judged at the Pennsylvania Convention Center beginning at 5 p.m.

Party at the Kimmel

Duck into the Kimmel Center, Broad and Spruce streets, to warm up, have a snack and enjoy family entertainment and crafts from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments available at the Peco Cafe. Or plan to have brunch at the Kimmel. Reservations required: 215-670-2388.

Fancy Finale

The Pennsylvania Convention Center hosts the Fancy Brigade finale with two shows: one at noon; the other, for judges, at 5 p.m. This event goes on rain or shine, but you have to have a ticket. (\$15-\$20; call 215-893-1999.)

Short march

Ten Fancy Brigades leave from Oregon Avenue at 1:30 p.m. and march to Washington Avenue, where buses take them to be judged at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Getting there

SEPTA runs subways every 8-10 minutes beneath the parade route. Elsewhere, it's a Sunday/holiday schedule. Rail lines, Market-Frankford El and PATCO stop near the Center City route. Buses will be detoured, and traffic and parking around City Hall will be ugly anywhere near the parade.

Weather or not

If the weather turns bad, a marching decision will be made by 4 a.m. Saturday and broadcast on KYW 1060 AM. If the parade is postponed, Mummers will march on Sunday. If the weather is lousy Sunday, they'll try again on Jan. 8.

Do you like to watch?

WPHL (Channel 17) will cover the Mummers from 9 a.m. Saturday, beginning with the special "Breakfast with the Mummers," followed by live coverage of the parade itself, in high-definition. From 8 to 10 p.m. the Fancy Brigade finale will be tape-delayed broadcast.



JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff photographer

Key: Transit (SEPTA, PATCO), Parade route (Comics, Wenches and Fancies, Fancy Brigades), String Bands, Performance and concession areas, Judging areas