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Top 9 things to do in Cincinnati this weekend (Oct. 9-12)

BY: [Jesse Folk](#), CityBeat Staff
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Looking for something fun to do this weekend? 9 On Your Side has teamed up with [CityBeat](#) to bring you the Top 9 picks!



River Grill before the Big Chill

1. Grill out before the big chill

Cincinnati Parks hosts the city's first-ever sanctioned State Championship Kansas City Barbeque Competition, where guests can watch pro teams compete to make the perfect barbecue in categories based on meat type -- and then taste the results.

There's also a backyard competition for amateurs in pork ribs and chicken wings categories, with a grand prize of \$1,000.

Aside from delicious smoky meats, attendees will also enjoy live music from local favorites and Mickey Thomas, formerly of Jefferson Airplane, with Starship.

The festival runs Friday and Saturday at Sawyer Point downtown.

To learn more, go to: cincyrivergrill.com.

2. *Go giving with the Weeki Wachee mermaids*

The world-famous Weeki Wachee mermaids of Florida's Weeki Wachee Springs are coming to Newport Aquarium this week.



Weeki Wachee Mermaids

Since 1947, beautiful women in colorful fishtail costumes have performed synchronized underwater ballet at Weeki Wachee, and this tour brings them to the aquarium's Coral Reef exhibit.

The "real-life" mermaids will swim from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day with nearly 200 aquatic animals and 50 species of fish in the 60,000-gallon exhibit.

Guests will also be able to meet and greet the mermaids or sign up for additional encounters like a mermaid-themed breakfast.

The event runs Friday through Oct. 19 at the Newport Aquarium.

To get tickets and more, head to: newportaquarium.com.



Listermann Oktoberfest

3. *Hoist a glass to an Oktoberfest tradition*

You thought Oktoberfest was over, didn't you?! Well you would be wrong.

Fresh off their big win at the Great American Beer Festival, Listermann Brewing will host their third annual Oktoberfest party.

The Friday and Saturday event will feature only local brewers and food vendors. The brewers will offer a rare beer from a cask or draft until it runs out.

In addition to the bronze medal-winning Listermann Nutcase Peanut Butter Porter, fan favorite Chickow! will be on tap in several varieties.

A special treat this year will be life-size foosball. Listermann will

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honor a fallen sheriff's deputy at the festival by donating a portion of the proceeds from the foosball game to the deputy's family.

The Cincideutsch will be on hand to help give the fair an authentic German feel and to help with the ceremonial keg tapping. Like Listermann's Volksfest and Starkbier Fest, the event will be family and dog friendly.

So hoist a glass and get your lederhosen and dirndls out for one last hurrah.

To get all the details, [click here](#).

4. Kick off Halloween at the Cincinnati Zoo

Every Saturday and Sunday in October, the Cincinnati Zoo hosts a kid-friendly extravaganza with a Halloween twist that is always hairy but never scary.



HalloZooWeen

Kids can explore the park as usual while satisfying their sweet tooth at trick-or-treat stations or searching for two golden Frisch's Big Boy statues to win prizes.

Throughout the day there will also be a variety of special pumpkin-themed animal activities with bears, cats, elephants and more.

If the animal and candy combo wasn't enough, families can also ride the Scare-ousel and Hogwart's Express Train Ride (both for additional charge).

The family fun runs through October. Go to cincinnati zoo.com to find out more.



Debussy + Dvorák

5. Enjoy the sights and sounds of "Debussy + Dvorák"

In 1994, Kazem Abdullah played clarinet in the Cincinnati Youth Symphony. Twenty years later, the CCM graduate and current music director for the city of Aachen, Germany, returns to

Cincinnati for his Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra debut -- as a conductor.

The program, *Debussy + Dvorák*, shows off Abdullah's extraordinary range, combining orchestral and choral works.

Debussy's sparkling "Jeux" opens the program, followed by Stravinsky's rarely performed "The King of the Stars" and the glorious "Symphony of Psalms," featuring the superb May Festival Chorus. Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 ends the program.

The event includes performances on Thursday and Saturday at Music Hall.

To learn more, go to: cincinnati-symphony.org.

6. Indulge your decadent vices

Wallow in your favorite vices at the fourth annual Wine, Art, Beer and Cigar Festival.



Wine, Art, Beer & Cigar Festival

Enjoy the distinctive taste and fragrance of a fine cigar, or check out the selection of more than 40 red and white wines and 25 craft beers.

Beer and wine experts will be on hand to offer educational sessions throughout the evening, and live music will be provided by Fathead Davis.

Admission includes five taste tickets for beer or wine and paired and prepared food samples.

The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Sharonville Convention Center.

To reserve your tickets, go to: wineartbeercigar.com.



Fall-O-Ween

7. Enjoy some family-friendly fall fun at Coney Island

Enjoy fall and Halloween favorites at Coney Island's Fall-o-Ween festival.

Watch a dazzling choreographed Halloween-themed light show in front of Moonlite Gardens, enjoy

Coney Island's classic rides, meet your favorite farm animals and ride a pony

There will also be a Trick-or-Treat Trail, hayrides, a "Monster Bash" live show, pumpkin launch, magic show, face painting and more.

Bring your dogs to the park on Sunday, Oct. 19 for [Howl-O-Ween](#) at Fall-O-Ween. There will be dog costume contests and trick-or-treating.

The event runs Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 19.

To find out more, go to: coneyislandpark.com.

8. Dance the night away with Black 47

Next month, after 25 years of



cultivating a large and loyal fanbase with its socially/politically conscious, Irish-flavored Rock sound and energized live shows, New York City's Black 47 will disband.



Black 47

But before the members (led by Irish playwright/author Larry Kirwan) go their separate ways, the group is hitting the road for one last go-around.

In March, Black 47 released its final album, appropriately titled *Last Call*, and more recently issued the compilation *Rise Up*, featuring 15 band favorites and rarities culled from the past quarter century of the group's releases.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati.

To get your tickets, head to: irishcenterofcincinnati.com.



Taste of Fall

9. Get the taste of Fall at Findlay Market

Findlay Market celebrates the harvest season with its annual Fall Food Festival. This year's festival includes food demos from the market's very own cookbook -- Findlay Market Cookbook.

Shoppers can also enjoy craft cocktails, live music by The Recreationals and Tracy Walker and pumpkin painting for the kids.

Show off your amateur baking skills or an old family recipe in the pie-baking contest, with a chance to win cash prizes.

It's also the last weekend of the season to enjoy the OTR Biergarten.

The fun runs noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at Findlay Market in Over-the-Rhine.

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