



Milford Great Pumpkin Festival

The 2012 Milford Great Pumpkin Festival - October 5- 7

The 2012 Milford Pumpkin Festival celebrated its 23rd anniversary this year and was very successful. Approximately 30-32,000 visitors attended the festival over the three day period. Some interesting statistics from the festival:

- Festival attendance estimated at 32,000.
- Friday Night attendance was one of the largest at approximately 8,000.
- 1,500 people attended the Haunted Trail event
- The 6th Annual Talent Show on Saturday night sold out – 440 seats.
- 43 auditioned for the Talent Show, from as far away as Kingston and Concord NH to Townshend, MA, and 18 final contestants performed in the show.
- 900 faces were painted at the Face Painting event
- 350 scarecrows were made by families at the Scarecrow making event
- 533 pumpkins were painted at the Pumpkin Painting event
- The first ever Festival Custom/Vintage Motorcycle Show had 22 entries.
- 670 hours of volunteer time, valued at \$14,311 invested to the Festival and community.

Forty nonprofit and community based groups participated with fundraising or awareness activities that will benefit Milford and surrounding communities in innumerable ways – including scouting troops, 4-H clubs, Milford High School clubs, the Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club, Milford Middle School Enrichment, the Milford Community Athletic Association, the Rotary Club, and local churches. Altogether, these groups raised approximately \$65,000 for their programs and services that will be reinvested back into the community.

The festival featured its traditional venues with family activities on the Community House Lawn, a stage on the Oval, events in Emerson Park, at the Library, on Middle Street and in the Town Hall. The festival opened with the traditional ceremony: the Pumpkin Runner, who made his way around the Oval and over to the Town Hall where Milford's fire department waited to light the Town Hall. Milford's Citizens of the Year, Paul and Joan Dargie, were recognized for their contributions to the Town. New



Milford resident, Police Chief Mike Viola, presented the award to the Dargies on behalf of the Milford Historical Society and the Milford Improvement Team.

Hundreds of volunteer hours go into putting on this event, with people working months in advance. We thank each and every one of them for their effort in making sure the event runs smoothly. Special thanks should go to longtime volunteers Jeanie & Bob Philbrick for decorating the Oval, the Milford DeMolay and Rainbow Girls for running the Haunted Trail, Jennifer Spaziani for organizing the weekend's music, the



Milford Masons for providing security, Rick Blasé for installing all our electrical needs, First Student Transportation for providing the shuttle buses, Trombly Farm Stand for providing scarecrow hay, Currier Lumber for providing scarecrow supplies, Centrix Bank staff for volunteering at several events, Chappell Tractor for providing us with festival vehicles, the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce for helping with the pie booth, and Bob Kokko of Kokko Realty for providing pumpkins, pumpkins and more pumpkins! MIT also extends its gratitude to the departments and staff of the Milford Parks, Public Works, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Buildings, Community Development, Community Media and the Town Administrator's office, all of whom provide services and support to the festival.

The 5th Annual Talent Show was a rousing success, selling out at the Amato Center, as friends, families, and festival attendees crowded into the theater to see a wide array of talent. And what a lot of talent there is in the Souhegan Valley area—acts ranged from acrobatics, to dancing to singing to juggling and the audience was delighted and amazed by the performances. Many thanks go to the judges: Irene Raisia Alton, Executive Director of Mrs. NH International NH/MA Pageants; Samantha Russo, Miss Souhegan Valley 2013; Scott Meyers, First Colebrook Bank, Brad Craven, Principal, Milford High School; Cecil Rowlette, Musician and Karl Zahn as our Master of Ceremonies. Robin LaCroix handled the stage managing and we thank the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club for allowing the use of the Amato Center.

We also wish to extend our gratitude to our sponsors that support bringing this event to the Milford Community: Kokko Realty, the Milford Odd Fellows Custos Morum 42, Centrix Bank, Atlas Pyrotechnics, Amigos Restaurant, Bellavance Beverage, Ciardelli Fuels, College Bound Movers, Contemporary Chrysler-Dodge, First Colebrook Bank, Fixmedia, Granite State Credit Union, JP Pest Services, Labelle Winery, Lake Sunapee Bank, Ledgewood Bay, Peters of Nashua, Maplebrook Dentistry, Martha's Exchange, Milford Lumber, Sap House Meadery, Spinal Corrective Center, St. Mary's Bank, Souhegan Valley Motorsports, Sweet Baby Vineyard, Triangle Credit Union, the Trombly Farmstand, Toyota of Nashua, and Tuckerman Brewing. We appreciate their support for this tradition that showcases Milford at its finest.

We are looking forward to Pumpkin Festival 2013 scheduled for Oct. 11, 12 & 13, for even more fun!

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Woolfson, President Board of Directors Tracy Hutchins, Executive Director