



## *Milford Great Pumpkin Festival*

### **The 2013 Milford Great Pumpkin Festival - October 11-13**

The 2013 Milford Pumpkin Festival celebrated its 24th anniversary this year and was very successful. Approximately 33,000 visitors attended the festival over the three day period. Some interesting statistics from the festival:

- Friday Night attendance was one of the largest at approximately 10,000.
- 1,620 people attended the Haunted Trail event
- The 7th Annual Talent Show on Saturday night sold out – 440 seats.
- 992 faces were painted at the Face Painting event
- 300 scarecrows were made by families at the Scarecrow making event
- 408 pumpkins were painted at the Pumpkin Painting event
- 1102 hours of volunteer time, valued at \$24,398 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 Citizen of the Year, MHS Teacher Dave Alcox, was recognized for his contributions to the Town. Milford Historical Society president, Dave Palance, presented the award to Mr. Alcox 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 Quinn Family for Town Hall Lighting, Hometown Insurance for the Pumpkin Lighting, 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 and JP Pest 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 7th 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 Raisis Alton, Executive Director of Mrs. NH International NH/MA Pageants; Samantha Russo, Miss Souhegan Valley 2013; Brad Craven, Principal, Milford High School; Cecil Rowlette, Musician and Greg Boggis 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, Bellavance Beverage, Ciardelli Fuels, College Bound Movers, Contemporary Chrysler-Dodge, Granite State Credit Union, JP Pest Services, Lake Sunapee Bank, Ledgewood Bay, Maplebrook Dentistry, Martha's Exchange, Milford Lumber, St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Mary's Bank, Souhegan Valley Motorsports, Sweet Baby Vineyard, the Trombly Farmstand, Toyota of Nashua, Tuckerman Brewing and White Mountain College. We appreciate their support for this tradition that showcases Milford at its finest.

Pumpkin Festival 2014 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the festival and we will be busy planning a special recognition scheduled for Oct. 10, 11 & 12!

Respectfully submitted,

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