



## THE 2015 MILFORD PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

The 2015 Milford Pumpkin Festival celebrated its 26th anniversary this year and was a huge success! Despite some rainy hours during the festival on Friday evening, approximately 35,000+ visitors attended the event over the three day Columbus Day weekend! During this event, visitors experienced Milford at its finest and also witnessed the community spirit of local volunteers, the support from local businesses, and the important role the downtown area plays in our community.

Throughout the Columbus Day weekend, families enjoyed live bands, carnival rides, bouncy houses, great Food and Arts and Crafts from all over New England, face painting, scarecrow building tent and many more activities. As a very family oriented festival, people came and made a day of it. The bands throughout the weekend were also fantastic. The crowds were definitely in the Fall spirit! As usual, the fireworks by Atlas Pyrotechnics were spectacular, despite inclement weather which caused them to be moved to Saturday night this year!

The Milford Pumpkin Festival featured its traditional venues with family activities on the Community House Lawn, live performances all weekend long on the Oval and Community House Lawn stages, events in Emerson Park, at the Library, on Middle Street, in the Town Hall and in and around the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club.

The festival opened Friday night with its traditional opening ceremony: The Milford Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Russell Dickerman for his work in saving and preserving Milford's lost 18th century village, Monson Center by David Palance of the Milford Historical Society. Two Milford High School seniors were awarded two (2) \$500 Milford Pumpkin Festival Youth Citizen Scholarship Contest, Michael Schedin and Allison Betelak. The scholarships were sponsored by March Chareth and Trent Blalock of Edward Jones. Then the Pumpkin Runner made his way around the Oval and over to the Town Hall where Milford's fire department waited to light the Town Hall.

The Milford Pumpkin Festival gives our town's community service organizations, non-profits, school teams and clubs, scouting troops, churches and other community based groups the opportunity to participate in the festival with fundraising booths or awareness activities that will benefit Milford and the greater community in innumerable ways – for many of these groups and clubs, the Milford Pumpkin Festival serves as their organization's major fundraising opportunity each year. All funds raised by these organizations are reinvested back into the community in the form of scholarships, services to the needy, team uniforms, and much more. Groups that benefitted from this year's Milford Pumpkin Festival: Milford Lions Club, Milford Conservation Commission, Cub Scout Troop 4, MHS Spanish Club, Child's Nature School, Amherst Area Newcomers Group, Pine Hill Waldorf School, MHS Best Buddies, Milford Mustangs Football and Cheer, Diamond Gems Softball, Milford United Methodist Church Youth Group, Boy Scout Troop 4, MHS Soccer Team, MHS Music Boosters, UU Church, Milford Historical Society, Recreation Department Commission, Souhegan Valley Dollars for Scholars, Girl Scouts, MHS Music Boosters, Wadleigh Library, Boy Scout Troop 407, Greater Nashua Medical Reserve Corps, St. Joseph's Hospital, Donate Life, Milford VFW, Milford Rotary and Interact Club, Milford Community Athletic Association, Milford Ambulance Reserve, Wilton Ambulance Blood Marrow Drive, Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Diamondbacks Softball Team, Milford Fire Department Waffle Breakfast, Odd Fellows of Milford, Girl Scout Troop 10050, Alisha's Love Child Foundation, Burns Hill Church, the Masonic Lodge and DeMolay Youth Group, Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, Crossway Christian Church, Next-Gen NH, Pumpkin Festival 5k on Sunday benefitting Milford Track and Field, MHS Soccer, MHS Football and Cheer Boosters.

The 9th Annual Talent Show was a joint effort between pumpkin festival organizers and the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club. The Talent show remains a popular event at the Milford Pumpkin Festival, and was a huge success, as friends, families, and festival attendees crowded into the theater to see a wide array of talent.

Acts ranged from bands and soloists singing a wide range of musical genres to dance troupes. This year's winners in the Adult category were: 1st Bobby Baker of Dracut, MA; 2nd Jessica Olson of Litchfield; 3rd Double Dang'ers of Milford. Winners in the Youth category were: 1st Kristina McCarthy of Hudson; 2nd Rachel Sheppard of Brookline; 3rd Lyric Michaud of Wilton. Crowd Favorite 2015 was the performance by DanceWorks troupe from Wilton.

For 26 years, Bob Kokko and family (of Kokko Realty) have been providing all the pumpkins to the Milford Pumpkin Festival and sponsor the Giant Pumpkin Weigh– in Contest! This year's Giant Pumpkin Winner was 1<sup>st</sup> place: 1,751 pounds grown by Steve Geddes of Boscawen, the largest ever in the Milford Pumpkin Festival's history! 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner at 1,359 pounds was grown by Joe Post of Billerica, MA; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place was 1,290 pounds grown by Barry LeBlanc of Merrimack.

The Annual Pumpkin Festival 5k race took place on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Overall winner and top female finisher was Tammie Brooks Robie. Rob Finan was the top male finisher.

Planning an event of this size on behalf of the town takes many, many months and even more volunteers! There could not be a festival without all of the hours these dedicated volunteers put in before, during and after an event of this magnitude! On behalf of the Milford Improvement Team, we would like to especially thank:

The Town of Milford Parks, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Planning and Building Departments. Words cannot describe how wonderful all these departments were to work with in putting on this spectacular town event!

The Milford Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator's Office.

Rick Blase of Blase Electric for the many hours of giving the festival the power to run and being available all weekend to keep the festival running smoothly.

Bob Kokko and family of Kokko Realty for bringing all the pumpkins and sponsoring the Giant Pumpkin Weigh– in Contest to this event!

Atlas Pyrotechnics for putting on a spectacular fireworks show Saturday night!

Jennifer Spaziani for coordinating all the fantastic live music all weekend long!

The Milford Benevolent 7 Masonic Lodge for being the overnight security known as the Ghoul Guards, and for their assistance along with the DeMolay and Rainbow youth that planned, built, and ran the very popular Haunted Trail!

Sean Trombly and Trombly Farm for providing all the hay for our scarecrow building tent and corn stalks for the Oval decorations.

Chappell Tractor and Souhegan Valley Motorsports for providing the festival volunteers with motorized vehicles throughout the weekend.

The Milford Downtown Businesses for their support in the planning of and during the Pumpkin Festival event.

The Livermore Association for the use of the beautiful Community House Lawn.

John Hopkins and Monadnock Tent Rentals for running the Bounce Houses that were enjoyed by hundreds of the festival's youngest attendees!

Jack Fanelli of Fanelli Amusements for all the amazing Carnival Rides that were ridden by so many attendees!

The Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club for hosting our carnival rides, and for partnering with us on the Talent Show.

To our Talent Show Judges: Mike Bonacorsi, Roberta Woolfson, Cecil Rowlette, Dr. Joshua Osofsky and Dr. Drew Wilson.

To Milford High School and Applied Technology Center art classes, for bringing their artistic talents to the themed windows of the downtown businesses.

To the numerous citizens who volunteered their time: The Quinn Family for 26 years of coordinating the Town Hall Lighting, the Pumpkin Runner (whose identity shall remain a secret!), and to Doris Miller for making the Face Painting Tent possible with her donation of supplies, and many more volunteers!

To the MHS Soccer JV and Varsity teams for all their hard work throughout the festival weekend and to Tina Wilder for coordinating all the volunteers and parents.

To Boy Scout Troop 407 for manning the MIT tent and Suzanne Schedin for coordinating all the parent and scout volunteers.

To members of the Crossway Church Congregation for manning the ticket booth at Fanelli Rides at the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, and to Tim Lafferty and Kim Paul for coordinating all the volunteers.

To Boy Scout Troop 4 and the MHS Music Boosters for manning the Pumpkin Painting tent and to Anne Parker for coordinating all the volunteers with both groups.

To the members of the United Methodist Church for manning the Face Painting Tent and Liane Wright and Susan Drew for coordinating the volunteers.

To the NH Parrotheads, Phillip Conroy and Randy Hunt for their taking turns being at the helm of at the Scarecrow Building Tent.

To HPM Insurance, Milford Ambulance, Beth Boggis of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Tina Smith of People's Bank for volunteering in the Beer Tent.

To the donors of product that made our Beer Tent a huge hit: Bellavance Beverage, White Birch Brewing, Milly's Tavern/Stark Brewing, Henniker Brewing, Tuckerman Brewing, Sea Hagg Distillery, Martha's Exchange, Smuttynose Brewing, 603 Brewery, Incredibrew, Moonlight Meadery, Kelsen Brewing, Pup's Cider/ Houndstooth Brewing, Long Trail, Shocktop, and Woodchuck Cider.

We also wish to thank our sponsors: Presenting sponsors: St Joseph's Healthcare, Geico Insurance, Blase Electric, Atlas Pyrotechnic, The Nashua Telegraph and Cabinet Press, Kokko Realty and Eastern Bank. Oval Stage sponsors – JP Pest, Apple Therapy, Odd Fellows Custom Moros, Gate City Collision, Souhegan Valley Motorsports, Milford Lumber and Subaru of Milford. Community House Lawn Stage- PJ Currier Lumber, Ledgewood Bay, Souhegan Valley Motorsports, Eaton Berube and Skillings and Sons. Talent Show- Alene Candles, Mike Bonacorsi Wealth Management, Family Dental Care of Milford and Lindt Chocolate. Crotched Mountain Raffle sponsor : Crotched Mountain Ski and Ride. Bounce Houses Sponsor: Monadnock Tent. Amusement Ride sponsor: Fanelli Amusements. Pumpkin Festival Scholarship contest sponsor : Edward Jones. Beer Tent sponsors: Turnstone Construction, HPM Insurance, NH Orthopaedic Center, Bellavance Beverage and Anytime Fitness. Haunted Trail sponsors: Granite Bank, MapleBrook Family Dentistry and Masonic Lodge, Milford NH. Pumpkin Catapult sponsor: Granite State Federal Credit Union. Scarecrow Building Tent sponsors: Trombly Farms, Contemporary Chrysler, St Mary's Bank and College Bound Movers. Face Painting Tent sponsors: Convenient MD and Ciardelli Fuel Company. Pumpkin Painting Tent sponsors: Dartmouth Hitchcock and Airmar Technology. Giant Pumpkin Contest and Pumpkin Sales sponsor: Kokko Realty. Pumpkin Glow sponsor: Hometown Insurance. Fireworks display sponsors: Atlas Pyrotechnics, Lake Sunapee Bank, Staples Office Superstore and Holloway Mercedes. Vehicle sponsors: Chappell Tractor, Souhegan Valley Motorsports and Granite Industrial Trucks.

***And most of all, thank you to the residents of Milford for their continued support of the Milford Pumpkin Festival, without which we would be unable to coordinate this event on behalf of the Milford Community each year!***

**Mark your calendars for Pumpkin Festival 2016, scheduled for Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>!**