

# BUSINESS

Friday, June 6, 2014 513 *quarterly*

## Chamber to co-host July Fourth festivities

By Deborah Rose

America will celebrate its 238th birthday in a month. And New Milford will be part of the festivities.

Once again, the Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce will take on the role of lead organization for the Fourth of July celebration, planned for July 5. A rain date would be July 6.

"It's a staple in the town," Jayson Roberts, co-owner of the Village Center for the Arts on Main Street, said of the festivities.

"As a community, it's a great thing, and a lot of people look forward to it," he said.

Several organizations — including the Chamber, the Lions Club and the Woman's Club — will be involved in hosting the activities in downtown New Milford.

The July 5 celebration will feature opening ceremonies, the construction and serving of a giant cake made by the Woman's Club of Greater New Milford, music and more still to be announced.

A fireworks display will top off the evening at dusk, with fireworks to be launched from the Fort Hill area, on the west side of the Housatonic River.

In addition, a Lions Club-sponsored carnival will run July 3-4 from 6 to 10 p.m. and July 5 from 5 to 10 p.m. at Young's Field.

Tickets for rides will cost \$1 each. A book of 28 will cost \$25.

Patrons may purchase a wrist band to ride the rides July 3 and 4 only.

Bob Hanna, chairman of the celebration committee, praised the community for working together to put on such a celebratory event.

"It's amazing," said Hanna. "It's the birthday of the U.S., and these are all

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volunteer organizations putting this on."

"They're all committed to the town, the state and the country," Hanna said. "It shows the heart of the people."

The fireworks display is possible only, though, through the support of the community and that comes with a price tag.

Hanna said the chamber is seeking to raise about \$10,000 for the show.

Individual donations and business sponsors are invited to make a contribution in any amount.

In the past, Lennie Lillis coordinated fundraising efforts for the fireworks display. When she stepped down from that role three years ago, the chamber assumed the task.

"As long as you have key people in the community willing to take the ball" and commit to getting a task done, things come together, related Roberts, who recognized the chamber's efforts to take over the coordination of the Fourth of July Celebration and fundraising.

"It's a great event," he added, "and (the chamber) has done a great job."

*Donations, made payable to the GNMCC with a memo "fireworks," can be mailed to GNMCC, 11 Railroad St., New Milford, CT 06776.*



TRISH HALDIN/SPECTRUM

The Chamber of Commerce's fireworks display lights up the sky over the New Milford Lions Club-sponsored carnival at Young's Field during New Milford's 2013 Fourth of July festivities.

## Village Fair Days 'great for the community'

By Deborah Rose

The New Milford Village Fair Days has long been a popular staple in the community.

This year marks the 47th annual summer-time event sponsored by the Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce.

Visitors from near and far are expected to attend the two-day event July 25-26 on the picturesque Village Green.

Activities will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

"We're really blessed that this town stands behind so much," said Village Fair Days Committee Chairman Bob Hanna of the volunteerism and support residents give to a variety of community activities, including the fair.

Festivities will kick off July 25 with an opening ceremony and the crowning of the king and queen at 10 a.m.

The traditional favorites of live entertainment, bingo, bouncy houses, vendor and local organi-

zations' booths will again return.

Local civic organizations — such as the Water Witch Hose Co. No. 2 firefighters, the New Milford Lions Club and the New Milford Rotary Club — and local restaurants will sell a variety of food.

Additionally, the 47th annual New Milford 8-mile road race and Village Fair Days 5K, coordinated by New Milford Parks & Recreation, will draw a large crowd the morning of July 26.

That evening, a few hours before the close of the fair, Chamber of Commerce officials will present three scholarships — the Chamber's Frederick J. Wynne Scholarship, and the Village Fair Days' Bill and Fran Babbino Scholarship and the Herman Izzard Scholarship.

This year one of the local booths — which offers junk food and paint splatter/spin art — will help support chamber activities.

The booth will donate its proceeds to the cham-



TRISH HALDIN/SPECTRUM

The King and Queen of the 2013 Village Fair Days — Pat and Mary Maguire — cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the festivities as Mayor Pat Murphy, second from the left, and fair volunteers look on.

ber's fireworks display fund (see story, this page).

Hanna praised the volunteers who devote many hours to planning, setting up, manning and cleaning up the fair.

Volunteers of all ages step up to help, including students from New Milford High School's DECA and Future Business Leaders of America groups, and other youths.

"We get about 10 to 20 kids involved and they do a tremendous job for us," Hanna said.

He pointed out, for example, having youths oversee the children's offerings — like the bouncy houses — is helpful because "it's kids with kids."

Sergio Liguori has been a part of the Village Fair Days committee for 10 years or so, having been invited to join by former fair Chairman Bill Babbino.

"I had an idea for the fair and (Bill) said to come to the meeting and bring my idea," Liguori said.

He has been part of the committee and plays an active role at the fair since that time.

"It's fun for me," Liguori said. "I get to see my friends, reconnect with my old friends and make new ones."

Liguori has several tasks at the fair, one of them overseeing the youth volunteers.

The longtime committee member said the fair affords businesses an opportunity to be more visible, as well as draw people

to the town.

"It's great for the community," he said.

Admission to the fair is free.

Handicapped parking will be available behind town hall at 10 Main St.

Pets are not permitted.

*For more information or to be a vendor, email nmcc@newmilford-chamber.com or call 860-354-6080, or visit www.newmilford-chamber.com or www.newmilford-chamber.com/calendar.html.*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## Greater New Milford Chamber is proud to host fireworks



DENISE DEL MASTRO

### FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

The Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce is very proud to be located in New Milford and involved in many of our community events.

As we approach the summer season, we are once again organizing the New Milford fireworks celebration.

Since 2012, the GNMCC has served in the lead role of organizing this spectacular annual Fourth of July community celebration.

We'd like to thank all of the organizations, businesses, volunteers and folks who donate to the fireworks fund. Without your support and generosity, this community celebration would not be able to be held.

The fireworks will be held July 5, with a rain date of July 6.

In order to put together the fireworks display and town-wide celebration, we need to raise about \$10,000.

We are hoping you can help us and are asking you

for your financial support with this substantial undertaking. Every dollar donated will help.

Because of the generosity of you, our townspeople and businesses, we can keep this community tradition alive.

Donations may be made payable to the GNMCC, with "fireworks" in the memo, and can be mailed to GNMCC, 11 Railroad St., New Milford, CT 06776.

We thank you for your consideration and really appreciate your support of this

community celebration.

### NEW NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

The Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce we added a new event, Business Featured, to our repertoire of networking opportunities.

Our first Business Featured was held June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Village Crest Center for Health & Rehabilitation at 19 Poplar St. in New Milford.

In addition to networking

with one another, we were able to tour the facility and learn about Village Crest.

This event was free and open to the public, and will continue to be going forward.

Why offer another networking opportunity?

Networking can help local businesses build leads and uncover new opportunities as well as raise a business's profile within the business community.

Networking can be an

**See Chamber on S16**