



Ashland sets dates for Annual July 4 Festivities

Ashland, NH – The Ashland Fourth of July Committee announces the dates for the town’s 56th Annual Holiday Celebration.

Food concessions and entertainment will be held on the L.W. Packard Ball Field, beginning at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 2, with a rain date of Tuesday, July 5. Music by bands Pardon the Spins and Amulus, as well as Master of Ceremony Art Harriman, will entertain the crowd. At dusk, the town will hold its first-ever flag-raising ceremony while Molly Ricker sings the “Star Spangled Banner,” prior to the start of the fireworks.

The committee works all year to raise money and put together the best show possible in the safest way possible. As state codes have tightened, the mortars were reduced to 3” meaning the blasts aren’t as colorful or diverse. After 55 years of shooting the fireworks display on the ball field, there is finally no more room. After considering every possible approach, it was decided the best option was to move the fireworks display area to the Ashland Elementary School playing field. The new location will allow a return to the 4” and 5” mortars, meaning more height and pizzazz for the display. The higher elevation will increase viewing areas around town and allow the entire ball field to be open to spectators.

The Annual Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser starts at 7 a.m. at the Common Man Ashland, getting the parade off to a great start.

The theme of this year’s parade, scheduled for Monday, July 4 at 10 a.m., rain or shine, is the 200th Anniversary of 1816, The Year Without a Summer and is dedicated to local hero, Reuben Whitten.

Parade participants are encouraged to incorporate this theme in their floats and presentations, but everyone is welcome and your ingenuity and creativity will be rewarded. Floats will be judged in the following categories: Most Patriotic; Most Beautiful; Best Integration of the Theme and Most Creative. This year the Grand Marshals’ choice for favorite float will win \$100; Selectmen’s Favorite, \$50 and Fourth of July Committee’s, \$25. Participants are encouraged to play music throughout the parade route – whether live or recorded. Line up for the parade begins at 8 a.m. behind the Ashland Fire Station.

The Committee would like to thank all the local businesses supporting these events through advertising in this year’s program, or with a banner on the ball field: Ashland Historical Society; Ashland Lumber; Atlas Pyrovision Productions; Bob’s Shur-Fine Market; Bridgewater Power Company; Cottage Place; Dunkin’ Donuts; Dupuis Cross Post #15; Dupuis Funeral Home; Jeremy Hiltz Excavating, Inc.; JD Design & Print; John J. McCormack, Attorney at Law; Laconia Antique Center; Laconia Motorcycle Week; Lisa’s Persona Training; Patty Stewart & Associates; Peabody & Smith Realty; Poulos Insurance, Inc.; Riveredge Marina; Sippican Partners Development Management; Squam River Landing; Squam Plumbing and Heating; Squam River Landing; The Common Man and Tree Solutions.

There’s still time to get your banner on the ball field for the July 2 Fireworks Display. Email ashlandindependenceday@gmail.com and your banner will be seen by the thousands of spectators who attend the annual event.

The funding for this annual celebration comes strictly through donations and the sale of commemorative items. The Ashland Fourth of July Committee is made up of a small group of dedicated volunteers whose mission is to keep their hometown tradition going. For more information, or to volunteer, attend a meeting the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Booster Club on Main Street, or email: ashlandindependenceday@gmail.com.