

Kent

Nothing sweeter than a strawberry on a warm spring day

By Grace Yoo

KENT — No one can refuse a juicy scoop of strawberries on a sizzling Saturday afternoon, especially when it is cooled with some vanilla ice cream.

Certainly the children outside the First Congregational Church on June 14 could not move three steps away from their bowls full of chocolate-coated strawberries, shortcake and ice cream.

This year's Strawberry Festival returned for a fourth year, sponsored by the First Congregational Church.

A bounce house set up on the church lawn and a face-painting booth distracted the children from the strawberries, but only for a while. Brook Kallstrom and Nick Lindabury, who were in charge of face painting, could draw animals only until the children left for a second bowl of strawberry ice cream.

The strawberries sold were from the Ellsworth Hill Orchard and Berry Farm LLC in Sharon. The farm harvests berries, peaches, apples and, in autumn, pumpkins.

According to one of the volunteers, Nancy Preston, the festival is not only delicious, but also "very traditional." It began sometime in the 1950s or 1960s, and Preston helped revive the tradition four years ago to "sup-



Above, Edward and Georges DeVos took a bite of the chocolate-covered strawberries. Right, Maggie Hicks enjoyed strawberry shortcake while her mother, Jeannette Hicks, watched.



PHOTOS BY GRACE YOO

port the Fellowship Fund, which is used for the church."

Even the types of strawberry desserts were copied from the old festival.

Among the volunteer church members was Mary Ellen Nelson, who was one of the original participants of the festival in its earlier incarnation.



PHOTO BY SAM RATHBUN

Veronica Limbos, Alexis Swagemaker, Alex Limbos, Eric Epstein, and Mary Ann Van Valkenburg greeted guests at the Fireman's Ball on Saturday, June 14.

Fireman's Ball more than just a dance

By Sam Rathbun

KENT — The Kent Volunteer Fire Department held the annual Fireman's Ball on Saturday, June 14, at the firehouse. This is one of the department's three major fundraisers, along with the ice watch in winter and the annual carnival in summer.

The ball took on extra importance this year. The ice watch was not held for the first time in recent memory, and the carnival has been canceled for this year.

The weather cooperated, providing an almost cloudless summer evening with perfect, mild temperatures. Members of the fire department, family and friends and the community gathered at the firehouse.

The event was held on Flag Day, so decorations followed a red-white-and-blue theme. A very large replica of the American flag made entirely from colored light bulbs was created by a retired member of the department, with some help from family members.

Denise Howard of Key-of-D Entertainment played swing, country, and slow and fast dance music throughout the night as guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a

roast beef dinner cooked by department members from their age-old secret recipe.

A raffle was held, with the proceeds going to the department. Prizes included a wine basket, a 46-inch high-definition television set, a gas grill, a cookware set and a summer getaway to a beach house on Oak Island, N.C.

The profits made at the event weren't available at press time, but the funds raised this year were crucial, following a winter in which the annual ice watch was not held due to the passing of volunteer firefighter and event organizer Bill Rundall.

The volunteer firefighters

also recently announced they would not hold the annual Fireman's Carnival later in the summer. A press release from the department listed decreasing attendance over the previous couple years—as well as increasing costs for holding the event — as the reasons for canceling the carnival this year.

The fire company is seeking suggestions from the community for other fundraising ideas, including the possibility of bringing back Sunday Bingo, which is still in the initial planning stages but could begin later this summer.

Any other suggestions can be sent to fair@kentfire.org.

MCENROE



FARM MARKET
WEEKLY SPECIALS
June 19th to June 25th
Farm Grown

Certified Organic Rainbow Swiss Chard \$.99 bunch
Certified Organic Lettuces \$.99 head
Our Own Farm Raised Pork Chops 20% off
Sunday June 22nd Strawberry Festival
with Strawberry Shortcake and Strawberry Milkshakes
MARKET 518-789-4191 HOURS: 96 • FRI • SUN 97
5409 RT 22 • MILLERTON • NEW YORK
BULK SOIL & COMPOST 518-789-3252 HOURS: MON-FRI 8-12 • 15
mcenroeorganicfarm.com

Email reporter
Sam Rathbun at
samr@lakevillejournal.com

KENT CALENDAR

Saturday, June 21 — Rabies clinic at the town garage, 2:15-4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24 — Inland Wetlands Commission at Town Hall, 7 p.m.; KVFD Executive Committee at the firehouse, 7:30 p.m.

Adult summer reading program

KENT — Beginning on Wednesday, June 25, adults are invited to visit the Kent Memorial Library and start reading for the adult summer reading program "Make Your Summer Enjoyable — Read!" and win a chance at three giveaway bags.

Participants will fill out a ticket for each book they read or listen to, which will be entered into a drawing on Monday, Aug. 25.



The Lakeville Journal
www.facebook.com/thelakevillejournal

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces that it is seeking public comment on a Proposed Remedial Action (also known as the proposed cleanup plan), for the Housatonic River "Rest of River." The proposed cleanup plan, which consists of a Draft Modification of the Reissued RCRA Permit, and a Statement of Basis, covers the "Rest of River" portion of the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site and addresses the river's sediment and floodplain PCB contamination beginning in Pittsfield, MA and extending into CT. Interested persons can submit written comments to EPA on the Proposed Cleanup Plan from June 25, 2014 through August 8, 2014.

The proposed cleanup plan is available on-line at www.epa.gov/region1/ge and copies of the Statement of Basis are available at most town halls in CT & MA along the Housatonic River. The public comment period is June 25 - August 8, 2014, and a Public Hearing date will be scheduled where the public will have an opportunity to make oral comments for EPA to consider. Details about how to submit comments are in the plan and on the website.

Prior to the start of the public comment period, EPA will hold two public information sessions to share the plan with the public. Both meetings will begin at 6 pm with a poster session, followed at 7 pm by a presentation and question and answer period.

The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 18th at the Lenox Memorial Middle and High School** auditorium, 197 East Street in Lenox, MA. The second meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 24th at the Kent Town Hall**, 41 Kent Green Blvd in Kent, CT.

To find out more about the proposed cleanup plan to learn about your opportunity to comment on the plan, please check the EPA website at www.epa.gov/region1/ge.

For further information, please contact Kelsey O'Neil at 617-918-1003, or at oneil.kelsey@epa.gov

We Are Your Local New Auto Dealer!

Jeep



RAM

CHRYSLER

DODGE



(860) 824-5174

32 Railroad St, North Canaan CT



www.CanaanChryslerJeepDodgeRam.com

