

Independence Day 2012 Celebrated in Pelham



The Arseneault Family consisting of Mathew, Cody, Bonnie and Anna attended the fireworks display on July 3

by Marc Ayotte

The Pelham Community Spirit, Inc., who has sponsored the fireworks celebration since 1996 was again the host for the 2012 Independence Day Celebration, held on the grounds of the Elementary School. The fireworks, provided by the town, saw a larger crowd than last year due in part to the rumors circulating the grounds that Salem had already cancelled their fireworks scheduled for the following evening. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed a conventional array of 'carnival cuisine', kids' attractions and musical entertainment provided by the local Cross Roads Church band.

Despite the normally inherent festive mood associated with celebrating our country's birthday, this year's crowd appeared to be somewhat solemn and certainly was not as supportively attired in red, white and blue as one might expect. However, the enthusiasm for the classics such as fried dough, French fries,

pizza and cheeseburgers certainly increased throughout the evening along with the usual anticipation of the fireworks display.

A different twist to this year's attractions was the fact that this is an election year. Accordingly, New Hampshire Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Ovide Lamontagne, accompanied by Hillsborough County Sheriff James Hardy, who is running for re-election, made the early rounds engaging in several informal meet and greets.

The musical entertainment began a little after 6 p.m. when the band played "Proud to be an American," made famous by artist Lee Greenwood. With the sounds of the Crossroads Church Band reaching all corners of where spectators had nestled in for the evening, several enjoyed the music up close in the dozens of chairs set up in front of the stage. The band played a nice collection of top 40 favorites as well as symbolic classics, "Coming to America"

by Neil Diamond and Toby Keith's "American Soldier."

Several organizations were represented with promotional tents set up in the rear of the school. Among the participants were the Pelham Medical Reserve Corps, Animal Rescue Network of New England (ARNNE), Pelham Community Spirit, VFW Post 10722, the PHS Band Boosters, and Cub Scout Troops 25 and 610. As they did last year, the Pelham Fire Association was hard at work, cooking cheeseburgers, hot dogs and sausages on the grill.

A timely fireworks display went off without a hitch as the sky was filled with the traditional, celebratory sights and sounds of America's birthday. Special thanks goes out to the Pelham Police Department for their 'exit strategy' that allowed for a smooth and orderly departure from the night's festivities.



Staff photo by Marc Ayotte

Kacey Gretter and Kaylin Guarino were just two of hundreds who attended the Pelham Independence Day Celebration