

Windham Community Band on the Village Green

by Marc Ayotte

Concerts on the Village Green in Pelham continued its summer-long schedule on July 11 with a performance by the Windham Community Band (WCB). Led by the Windham High School Director of Bands, Jared Casedy, the Community Band is comprised of WHS music students as well as musicians of all ages from surrounding towns including Pelham, Derry and Manchester. As Casedy indicated, in addition to a few music teachers, the band consists mostly of musicians who earn their living in other capacities; doctors, lawyers and engineers to name a few. Interestingly, added the former music teacher at Golden Brook Middle School, there are a lot of parent and children combinations that are members of the band, featuring nine WHS music students.

The WCB opened up the evening with a military salute, treating the audience to a prideful, five

song medley of the official songs of the Armed Forces; "The Army Goes Rolling Along," "Wild Blue Yonder," "The Marine Corps Hymn," "Anchors Away" and "Semper Paratus/Coast Guard." Throughout the evening the band's music selections ranged from popular to marches to show tunes, including jazz and Broadway hits.

Casedy, who has been the Community Band's director since 2006, embarked on a 17 day, seven country European tour, accompanied by six WHS students (among others) the day following their Pelham performance. Upon his return, Casedy is looking forward to continuing the successful music program currently in place at the high school, pointing out the heightened interest by saying, "We have eighty-two

students in the band for 2013."

Adding to the musical entertainment this past week was heat-beating refreshments served up by local business Holly's Kona Ice with part of the proceeds benefiting the Pelham Boy Scouts. Also, VFW Post 10722 is present at each event, cooking up hot dogs and burgers, with the proceeds going to their general fund in support of their many contributions to the Pelham community. With spacious grounds for children to engage in

activities from frisbee throwing to whiffle ball, the evening of music is a great take for the residents of Pelham and surrounding towns. On July 25, the theme will be Irish Music, performed by the Music Makers Shamus and Eileen. The concerts begin at 6 p.m. The free Concert series, which is presented by the Pelham Community Spirit, with the Pelham Police Relief Association playing the role of band sponsor, continues through August 22, culminating with a 'Sixties Invasion'.

Staff photos by Marc Ayotte



An expansive look of the crowd in attendance at Concerts on the Village Green in Pelham as they listen to the Windham Community Band on July 11



Recent St. Patrick School graduates Christina Clark and Krystal Mara indulge in some refreshing flavored ice during the Windham Community Band's performance



Windham High School and Windham Community Band Director, Jared Casedy