

Musical Memory Lane Leads to Pelham

by Marc Ayotte

The summer long promotion of "Concerts on the Village Green" came to a resounding conclusion on Wednesday, August 22, with an enthralling performance from the band Sixties Invasion. The show band has been together for 15 years and has recorded a concept CD that was used for two seasons in the television series Dawson's Creek. Next month they have another CD coming out, entitled 'Santa with the Red Suit' – a Christmas parody of Mitch Ryder's 'Devil with the Blue Dress.'

In what has been an extremely successful endeavor this year, according to Pelham Community Spirit committee member Charlene Takesian, the entertaining, creative and non-stop renditions of hits from the 1960s by the New England renowned band had the audience tapping their feet and singing along, under a gorgeous, Pelham summer evening sky. "This has been the best season ever – the best attendance, the best weather" exclaimed Takesian, just prior to what was inarguably the most energetic and music packed event of the summer.

With hundreds of listeners either firmly



Staff photos by Marc Ayotte

The band 'Sixties Invasion' closed-out the Concerts of the Village Green on August 22; the show band entertained the audience with an array of hits and creative performance as evidenced with a visit from The King, Elvis Presley

entrenched in their 'foldy' chairs or camped out on blankets on the plush 'Village Green grass,' the band, comprised of musicians David Vose, Dave

Dunham, Jack Little and Bob Cleary opened up the night with the instrumental "Walk Don't Run" by the Ventures. The ensuing hour and a half took us all down memory lane as the band performed with electric enthusiasm and originality. Props, stories, crowd interaction, British accents, a visit from the 'King' and more, all enhanced the band's performance, as they delivered famous hits with precision instrumentals and vocals.

After sharing their "Love Potion No. 9" with the audience, Sixties Invasion followed that up with a visit from Elvis, as Dave Dunham mastered the King's delivery and sound, treating the crowd to a three song set, including "Little Sister" and "Can't Help Falling in Love" before Elvis apologized; "I gotta get back to the 7-11." As the band's lead vocalist, Dunham was superb the entire evening as his magical stage presence and talent delighted the audience, song after song.

The band's musical nuances continued as the engaging group of musicians led by Voce, who is a full professor at Berklee College of Music, pounded out the iconic hits of the past. With a passion evidenced in every song, the band performed such chart toppers as "You've Lost that

Lovin' Feeling," "Day Dream Believer," "Gloria," "Good Lovin'," and Herman's Hermits "Wonderful World." Cleverly integrated within and around these songs was a musical-spoof segment reflecting the stop/start music and (bad) joke telling reflective of the 60's television hit, *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*. Additionally, the band took their audience participation to a new level as they did a three-song medley of Limbo songs. Highlighted by Chubby Checker's "Limbo Rock," the question "how low can you go?" brought children and adults alike to center stage to see just how low they actually could go.

A history of rock and roll was next on the agenda as the band brought the audience from the 1920s through the '60s, giving snippets of the music's origin as well as performing smash hits from such music genres as swing and electric blues up to what they deemed the greatest R&R song of all time – Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode."

With a never-ending supply of energy and creativity, the 'Sixties Invasion' took on a British flavor, making the crowd feel "Glad All Over" by booming out hits from artists The Dave Clark 5, and a little known group from Liverpool called The Beatles – including "I Saw Her Standing There" and "Twist and Shout." After a drum solo by Voce, the band went into Psychedelic mode, receiving a visit from Doctor Timothy Leary (played by lead guitarist Bob Cleary). Cleary, garbed in "Austin Powers - yeah, baby" attire, often (jokingly) lost his musical way, epitomized by ending up in a "Purple Haze" as he segued the Jimmy Hendrix classic into Henry Mancini's "Baby Elephant Walk" – a subtle and brilliant aspect of the band's ability to bring unique and captivating entertainment to their audience.

Takesian thanked the many event sponsors that made bringing the free of charge concerts to the public, a possibility. The night of music brought a tremendous energy to the stage and the town as it culminated a very successful promotion by the Pelham Community Spirit; "every band that has come here has said this is such a beautiful venue" recalled Takesian, adding "they all look forward to coming back" – as should all of you in 2013.



Interacting with the audience, the band performed a three song Limbo set highlighted by Chuck Berry's "Limbo Rock"