

Hull PorchFest to return in September for a third year of musical performances

By Carol Britton Meyer

Planning is well under way for the third annual Hull PorchFest in the Kenberma neighborhood in September, featuring the music of nearly 40 bands for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

"It's Hull PorchFest time," Founder/President Thomas Hardey announced to the select board last week before he presented the proposed plans, which won members' unanimous support.

Local bands and performers will provide an afternoon of music on porches, driveways, front yards, and at other unique performance sites around the area.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 6 p.m. within a walkable, contained area for enhanced pedestrian safety. Event organizers match up musicians with hosts and create the performance schedule. There is no rain date, so organizers are hoping for mild, rain-free weather.

The footprint will remain the same as before, with Kenberma Street as the boundary to the north, Revere Street to the south, Manomet Avenue to the east, and Massasoit Avenue the west.

The original "porchfest" started in Ithaca, N.Y., in 2007, "and the idea exploded after that," Hardey said earlier.

The goal of past PorchFests hasn't changed, according to Hardey.

"We want to cultivate more civic pride and community bonding and to present a positive, entertaining event to also attract people from out of town, present Hull in a positive way, [and to support local businesses]," he said. "We also want to be a source of aid to organizations in need."

Reflecting that goal, for the third year, the plan is to make a contribution to the Hull Senior Center/Council on Aging. PorchFest has donated \$10,000 from the last two events for that purpose.

As in the past, residents can look forward to Preview Saturdays in Kenberma, featuring weekly sidewalk musicians leading up to the main event.

Select Board member Donna Pursel said she and other passersby enjoy seeing the bands playing while doing errands on the weekend.

"It builds excitement for the main event," she said.

The expected turnout this year is 1,500. While last year's PorchFest attracted about 1,000 spectators, the event becomes more popular as more people discover what it's all about.

"We're expecting upwards of 40 bands this year," Hardey said. "The feedback was great last year, and we hope to continuing to hold PorchFest for years to come."

He's also hoping to get local restaurants involved. "They are our first priority for food service," he said.

Select Board Chair Jennifer Constable said she's glad to see the return of the popular event in 2022. "PorchFest draws a nice crowd, and

people look forward to it," she said.

Town Manager Philip Lemnios noted that "Tom, a lover of the arts and music, has built a team of folks who are passionate about the event, which is really nice for the town."

In response, Hardey acknowledged that PorchFest is "a beautiful thing for Hull, and I'm glad to be part of it."

For information about sponsorships and how to make a donation, and other details of the event, visit www.hullporchfest.org. **HT**



The Hull High School Class of '77 is holding a 45th year reunion on Saturday, August 13 at Local 02045 at A St. Pier in Hull from 7-11p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Please RSVP to Rocky.Grossack@yahoo.com Follow the group on Facebook: Hull High School Class of 77



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