

# Winchester's spirit sparkles

Tenth annual Town Day festivities declared successful

By JENNIFER BUSSELL

Special to the Star

Downtown Winchester buzzed with excitement last weekend as

local merchants, musicians, performers and residents gathered to celebrate Winchester's annual Town Day.

A tradition started by the Jaycees

10 years ago, Town Day opened with a new twist this year. A Rock Hop held under the stars across from the fire station started Town Day events rolling on Friday evening. Winchester residents rocked the night away to the beat of DJ "Pudge" Flynn from 7:30 to 11 p.m.

The Rotary Club's pancake breakfast kicked off Saturday's events. Throughout the morning Winchester athletes took to the streets in the 4.7-mile road race and the 2.5-mile Fun Run.

Each race had an overall winner in the male and female division. The overall first place winner in the male division of the Road Race was Don Dillon with a time of 22:15, while Diane McLaughlin captured the first place spot in the women's division with a time of 30:03.

The Fun Run had two age divisions, with overall first place winners in each. In the 13-plus division, the male winner was Dave Schubert with a time of 14:58, and the female winner was Lucy Shawcross with a time of 10:07. In the under 13 division, Peter Gustin was a winner for the boys and Sara Bonnell was a winner for the girls.

Approximately 200 runners participated in the races, which were

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## Town Day draws happy throng

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sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Community Services. ReMax All United Realty helped make the events possible with their large contribution.

A favorite among the younger crowd was the annual Kiwanis Fishing Derby held at Wedge Pond. In addition to the first place winners judged on the size of their prized catches of the day, two bicycles were drawn as grand prizes for the entrants of the derby. Meghan Halchak, age 10, and Peter Brownell, age 4, each rode away with a brand new bike.

The picture-perfect weather drew large crowds to the downtown area, which was blocked off from local traffic for the day. According to Dick Malcolm, a member of the Town Day Committee, the crowd appeared to be larger than in the past. "There was an intense crowd

between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.," said Malcolm, who found the day to be "very successful".

The main attractions were the various booths and raffles of local merchants, which consisted of craft makers, local realtors and bankers, concessionaires, school and community groups. Local talent was on display throughout the day as dancers, singers and musicians took to the stage at the Duck Pond.

"The entertainment had the greatest amount of variety," said David Pywell, who chaired the Town Day committee. Pywell agreed wholeheartedly with Malcolm on the success of the day. "The flavor of the day was to have a good time and that's what we had," said Pywell.

In addition to the all-time favorite pie-eating contest and face painting by Poco the Clown, the line-up of Town Day events includes pony rides around the Common and trolley rides around scenic Winchester.

Friends and family alike turned out for the cookout behind the library, while being entertained with folk songs, pop rock and choral hymns.

The grand finale was the spectacular fireworks display on Manchester field. "The fireworks were the best put together display that we've had in years," said Pywell.

According to Pywell, the success of Town Day was due in part to the commitment of the Town Day committee, local sponsors, and numerous volunteers from the community. "People joined in and became involved," said Pywell. "They helped each other out."