

Clinton Township Celebrates Community Day

By JOE SHUST, Editor | Posted: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 1:00 pm

CLINTON TWP. – Hundreds of residents headed to Bundt Park on Saturday, April 26, to celebrate the 6th annual Clinton Township Community Day.

Despite a brief rain shower, residents headed to the park in droves for a day of food, fun and family activities.

Various local businesses and organizations, including local Boy and Girl Scout Troops and volunteer committees, were on hand to pass out information and sign up members of the community. Members of the Annandale Hose Company also brought out their fire trucks and the New Jersey State Police landed a helicopter in the nearby fields.

Activities like rock climbing, pony rides, and a petting zoo delighted the many children in attendance.

Adults were able to listen to live music and have a few beverages at the beer and wine tent. Local icon Dan “Dr. D” Torrone provided the entertainment.

The day also featured home games for North Hunterdon baseball and softball teams. Both teams earned victories, as the softball team shut down Hackettstown, 4-0, in the first round of the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex tournament, while the baseball team outslugged Memorial High School of West New York, 10-8.

Members of the many volunteer boards who were represented said community day gives them a chance to spread their message to members of their local community.

“Part of our mission is to educate the public about the things that we do,” said Environmental Commission Chair Laurie Gneiding.

“We not only support the planning board, we are here to educate the people about protecting the environment in Clinton Township.”

One of those organizations, the Clinton Township Community Garden, hopes to generate enough interest to allow it to expand. The garden, started by former Township Councilman Harmen Vos, allows township residents to rent out plots to grow whatever they please. Those who are involved in the garden, located right next to the Community Day festivities in Bundt Park, hope it expands soon.

“It’s a great thing for neighbors and families who don’t have the property or the area to have their own gardens,” said Garden Advisory Committee Co-Chair Nancy Slota. “If we can get enough interest and maybe get a wait list, we can expand. That would be our goal to get maybe 20 people on a wait list so we can make it bigger next year.”

In addition to finding new scouts to sign up, the local Girl Scout Troop also uses community day to

spread the word about what they are doing in the community.

“We come here every year and give out information about the Girl Scouts so that girls will join,” said Girl Scout Service Unit 81 Leader Esther Ferguson. “We have girls that come and help do activities for the children and this year we have older scouts who are working on their Silver Awards and handing out information about SAFE in Hunterdon.”

Because it is so spread out, Clinton Township rarely has events that gather the whole community together. Ferguson said Community Day is important because it allows locals and local organizations to get together.

“There aren’t a lot of events like this so we try to come here every year,” Ferguson said. “We have an open house at the school in September but other than that, this is really it besides selling our cookies.”