



North Fork's Largest Fund-Raiser & Fun-Raiser

**55th Annual Mattituck Lions
Strawberry Festival June 19-21 2009**

Call for Volunteers for Hulling Night – June 18 5pm-8pm

Serving up plenty of family fun, outdoor entertainment and of course farm-fresh strawberries, the 55th Annual Mattituck Lions Club Strawberry Festival arrives Father's Day weekend, heralding the approach of summer on the North Fork.

This year, Hulling Night will be held from 5pm-8pm at Strawberry Fields on Rte. 48 in Mattituck. Volunteers are needed to help hull the thousands of strawberries needed to serve to Festival guests. Light refreshments will be served. It's a great opportunity to have fun, chat with your neighbors and donate your time to a worthy cause.

"The Strawberry Festival is a great family tradition" said Joe Pufahl, chairman of the 2009 event and long-time Lions Club member. "All proceeds from the event go to community non-profit organizations, everything from local hospitals to scholarships, homeless shelters, food banks and more. The funds really help bridge the gap between available public funding and what's actually needed."

Celebrating the East End's succulent strawberry crop, the Festival sprawls out across "Strawberry Field" on Route 48 June 19-21, welcoming guests from near and far with a combination of long-lived local traditions and fresh entertainment experiences. Back by popular demand are the Festival's grand traditions: Thursday night community strawberry hulling. Friday, Saturday and Sunday live outdoor music, the crowning of the Strawberry Queen, fireworks Friday and Saturday nights and of course strawberries, at least a million of them, served up by volunteers with shortcake, in alcohol-free daiquiris, and dipped in chocolate.

New this year are such features as the friendly pirate encampment where children hunt twice daily for buried treasure, and the inaugural North Folk Music Festival Sunday afternoon. The best news of all - free parking and free shuttle bus service from Maratha Clara Vineyards on Rte. 48 right to a special shuttle bus entrance.

Marking the 40th anniversary of Woodstock and the Summer of Love, the inaugural North Fork Folk Festival brings six acts to the main stage starting noon Sunday. Guests are welcome to bring blankets for seating. "The performers span the range of American folk music, from country, blues, rock, roots, jazz and the singer-songwriter idiom," said Cindy Smith of ImageQuest Communications, a festival consultant. "The music will be family friendly, lively and another reason to come back to the Festival Sunday."

Full information, including directions, transportation options, hours and schedules available online at MattituckStrawberryFestival.org,

55th Annual Mattituck Lions Strawberry Festival Fast Facts

What: 55th Annual Strawberry Festival

Date: June 19, 20 and 21

Times: Fri. 6PM-11PM Sat. 11AM-11PM Sun. 11AM-5PM

Hosted by: Mattituck Lions Club

Admission: Fri: \$2 for guests 5 and up

Sat. & Sun. Adults: \$5 Children: 6-18 \$3 Kids 5 & under: Free

Website: MattituckStrawberryFestival.org

Location: "Strawberry Fields" Rte. 48 Mattituck

New for 2009: Free parking & free shuttle bus service from Martha Clara Vineyards (6025 Sound Ave./Rte. 48) Special entrance for shuttle bus guests.

About the festival: Hosted by the Mattituck Lions Club, the 55th annual Strawberry Festival is one of the North Fork's largest community fundraisers. Festival features its legendary strawberry shortcake, alcohol-free daiquiris and decadent chocolate dipped berries. Featuring over 100 arts & crafts vendors, amusement rides, midway, entertainment stage, "friendly pirates" with treasure hunts for the kids, fresh berries and plants for purchase and more. SUNDAY ONLY-Inaugural North Fork Folk Festival starting noon. Fireworks Fri & Sat nights at 9PM.

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