

2015 Happy Days Festival Recap

The City of Ramsey's 17th annual Happy Days Festival was a great success! We saw a weekend filled with beautiful weather, community involvement, and large crowds of Ramsey Residents and visitors.

This year we started the Happy Days celebration a few days early with the first ever Taste of Happy Days event, hosted by the Ramsey Rotary on Thursday, Sept. 10th. An impressive audience turned out for the event which featured local food, wine and beer vendors, a silent auction and raffle drawing.

On Saturday, Sept. 12th the day started off on a great foot with 55 runners showing up to take on the Happy Days 5k course, as well as 20 kids who participated in the Kids Fun Run. 70 riders enjoyed the Family Bike Tour; starting at Ramsey Fire Station #1 the riders could follow the trails along a 6.5 mile route or a 9 mile route this year. 63 expos vendors filled the field across from the Ramsey Municipal Center and attracted steady crowds throughout the day.

In the afternoon, 45 classic cars lined both sides of Center Street for the Happy Days Classic Car Show, along with a dozen electric cars featured in Connexus Energy's Electric Car Show- which was a new addition this year. Crowds gathered to pull up a spot along the curb and watch the 2015 Happy Days Parade, featuring 50 floats. Judges Awards were given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place floats in each category. This year the overall Crowd Pleaser Award went to the Color Guard- 7th Pennsylvania Regiment.

There was fun for all ages! While kids enjoyed the inflatable playgrounds, bungee jump, rock wall, face painting, music, fun games and activities, parents enjoyed Bingo, the 2nd annual Happy Days Bean Bag Tournament, and sampling the chili at the Ramsey Fire Department's Chili Cook-off.

Everyone enjoyed delicious food from 7 different vendors, an awesome performance by classic country band Gravel Roads, and magic and comedy by Jerry Frasier. The crowd stayed well after dark for an outdoor concert by Maiden Dixie and the best fireworks show around!

The Happy Days Committee would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time and efforts toward making the 17th annual Happy Days Festival a smooth event, especially; Ramsey Police Department and police reserves, Ramsey Fire Department, Public Works Department and City Staff; without whose hard work and cooperation this event would never be possible.

I would also like to recognize the Happy Days Committee, for the hours they put into making this day a success, not to mention their year-round dedication to the planning process.

And a special thank you to the many generous sponsors whose contributions help to make this event a wonderful celebration for our community each year. Our platinum sponsors donate over \$1,000 towards the festival: Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce, Bank of the West, BOB FM, Bolton & Menk, Connections Church, Connexus Energy, Do All Printing, Freedom Christian Church, In'Tech Industires & Phantom Lures, Life Fitness, M&G Trailer Sales and Services, Northgate Church, Northern Light Church, Ramsey Lions Club, and St. Katherine Drexel Church.

Our Gold sponsors donate at least \$500: Ace Solid Waste, Anytime Fitness Ramsey, Coborn's, Hakanson Anderson, Hope Fellowship, The Links at Northfork, Mike Orn- State Farm Insurance, NAU Country Insurance, One Hour Heating & AC, Parkplace Studio, PSD, LLC, R and D Transportation, Village Bank, Wendell's, and Zero Zone, Inc.

And our Silver sponsors: The Bank of Elk River, Boilermakers Local 647, Casey's General Store, Green Valley Greenhouse, IEM, LLC, Nexlink, Pearson Farm, Prevail Counseling Group, Ramsey Bicycle, and Skeeter Boat Center.

The date has been set for the 18th annual Happy Days Festival: Saturday, September 10th, 2016. For more information on sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, how to sign up for an event or become involved in next year's festival, please contact me or visit our website www.cityoframsey.com/happy-days.

Again, thank you to everyone who contributed to this event. We look forward to another successful Happy Days Festival in 2016.