



Office of Economic and Community Development  
Town of Stratford  
2725 Main Street  
Stratford, CT 06615  
(203) 381-1351 Office  
(203) 814-9213 Cell

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## STRATFORD'S 375<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARADE AND EARLY AMERICAN FESTIVAL September 20 and 21

### **\*TRAFFIC ALERT\***

**BARNUM AVE (RT 1) AND MAIN STREET CLOSED SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 10AM-11AM**

The Stratford Historical Society is hosting an Early American Festival to celebrate the town's 375th anniversary. The two-day event will kick off with a parade down Main Street at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 20. The parade will begin at Paradise Green and continue down Main Street to the war memorials on Academy Hill. **(RT 1/Barnum Ave and Main Street will be closed in this area during the parade.)**

Local historian Todd Lovell will be the grand marshal of the parade. Lovell was the first vice president of Stratford Historical Society. Invited guests will speak in honor of our veterans and about the 375th anniversary of the establishment of Stratford. Re-enactors will salute all attending veterans with a gun salute which will signal the start of the festival on the grounds of the Stratford Historical Society and Academy Hill.

The Town of Stratford was established in 1639 when 17 families followed Reverend Adam Blackman and started the Congregational Church, now called the "First Congregational Church." The current pastor of the church Reverend Rowls will speak to begin the festival, surrounded by the descendants of the first 17 families that came to Stratford. Many of the descendants are travelling to Stratford from all across the United States.

Re-enactors of the Revolutionary and Civil wars will camp on the society grounds during the weekend, reenacting battles fought from both wars. They will also be demonstrating the life of a soldier at that time in history. Skills such as cooking over a fire, tinsmithing, blacksmithing, weaving and other various jobs from that time. Native Americans and pirates will also be on hand as part of the reenactment.

The Captain David Judson House will be open for tours. There will be live music and walking tours of the historical district and the First cemetery. This event is free and open to the

public. The historical society is asking for donations of diapers to be donated to the Sterling house food bank.

The 375th anniversary parade committee would like to thank all of the supporters from the Town of Stratford, including Mayor John Harkins, as well as all of the sponsors from the private sector.

"The level of support we have received from all parts of the Stratford community has been terrific," said committee member Amy Knorr. "Although the committee selected a date for the parade knowing the Mayor will not be available to attend, he has been a major supporter of our efforts. This promises to be a great event for Stratford."

CONTACT: Amy Knorr, Supervisor Town of Stratford 203-381-1351 or 203-814-9213(c)

Route 1 (Barnum Ave.) will be closed at the intersection of Main Street in Stratford from approximately 1000AM-1100AM on Saturday, September 20, 2014 for the Early American Festival Parade. Additionally, Main Street will be closed from Wilcoxson Ave. (Paradise Green) to Stratford Ave. (Hard's Corner) during these hours also.

It is suggested that motorists traveling through Stratford on Route 1 use Interstate 95 as an alternate route.

The LOCAL alternate route for westbound Route 1 traffic during the parade will be as follows:

Veterans Blvd.

Ferry Blvd.

Stratford Ave.

Beardsley Ave.

West Broad St.

For eastbound traffic:

West Broad St.

Beardsley Ave.

Stratford Ave.

Ferry Blvd.

We plan to have signs out detailing the route to expedite the traffic flow.