

Community spirit on full display at Ansonia Harvest Festival

By Ralph Villers

ANSONIA - After a two-year hiatus Main Street came alive Saturday with strolling guests and hay bales under an azure autumnal afternoon sky.

And visitors again felt that old-fashioned charm in the latest iteration of the Ansonia Harvest Festival.

Denied a presence at this annual street celebration since **2019**, everyone on the downtown venue was invited to visit over 160 vendors, restaurants, and retailers along the thoroughfare. This year's event was the largest-ever with the street filled with vendors from Tremont to Maple Streets.

Sponsored by the Ansonia Cultural Commission and Junior Cultural Commission, the Harvest Festival stretched nearly a half-mile under the late September sun.

Happily, the COVID cancellation of 2020 did not reduce the number of guests this year.

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There was a diverse and eclectic selection of purveyors offering original crafts, stylish retail, delectable food, and more.

The 2021 version showed southern Connecticut that it is, as always, a festival draws you in by offering something for everyone.

The day began with a procession along Main Street to City Hall featuring Mayor David S. Cassetti, festival mascot "Harvey" and very special guest Paralympian medalist and Ansonia native ***Mathew Torres***.

Torres won a bronze medal in swimming at the 2020 Para-Olympics in Tokyo. Not only is he an able competitor but also a gentleman. He was all smiles as he autographed photos for visitors.



The accompanying photos in the newsletter give but a small glimpse into a wonderful day. The old-fashioned street festival made a triumphant return to the Copper City.

A pandemic may come and go, but community and camaraderie leave a lasting impression.

Ansonia Events Coordinator Rich DiCarlo said, "We were given a challenge to fill a quarter-mile of Main Street with vendors and activities. We did just that, and everybody had fun. That's what it's all about."



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The hard work of the Ansonia Cultural Commission made the day possible:

Cultural Commission



- Irene Krom-Kirby
- Rich DiCarlo
- Stephanie Musleh
- George Pudimat
- Ralph Villers
- Renee Simpson
- Kayleigh Mihalko

Junior Cultural Commission



- Emily Borona
- Makayla Quinn
- Isabella Montegudo
- Sabrina Ortega
- Austin Schloemer
- Christian Schloemer
- Special thanks to Hannah Vu and Hansel Vu for for their help.

Thanks also go to the City of Ansonia that contributed so much to make the 2021 Harvest Festival shine: Ansonia Public Works, especially for their autumnal decorations at City Hall (see below) and the Ansonia Police Department for keeping the traffic flowing.

