

## Easton Firemen's Carnival brings families together

Written by Laura Modlin  
Friday, 12 August 2011 13:35

---



Last week, the late summer sky over Easton was ablaze with flashing lights, swirling rides, gleeful shrieks and the making of fond memories.

The 76th Easton Fireman's Carnival drew generations of the young-at-heart during four nights of games, rides, stuffed animals and food that included fried dough, ice cream, peach shortcake, burgers and cotton candy ... not to mention the chance to feel connected to a piece of timeless familiarity.

Along with the gaiety of ride bracelets dangling from children's wrists was the yearly chance for the town's chronological young to reacquaint themselves with their classmates before school starts later in the month. And for parents to have an excuse to be at the fun-filled event.

Art Laske, finance board member and father of four carnival-going youngsters, was having as good a time as his children.

"The kids drag you here," he said. "But I like it, too." He is happy that the carnival is a place where his children can securely dip their toes into independent camaraderie with their peers.

"It's safe here," he said. And because of that he can allow them to socialize freely.

"They haven't seen their friends since school ended and are excited to run into them again."

## Easton Firemen's Carnival brings families together

Written by Laura Modlin  
Friday, 12 August 2011 13:35

---

While the Easton Fireman's Green experiences its annual transformation into an island of unabated playfulness, residents of other generations also find a similar renewal of their connection to one another — and a unity.

Longtime resident Dolly Curtis has been going to the carnival for 31 years. She looks forward to running into a steady stream of familiar faces.

"The friendship is always the main enjoyment for everyone ... from the young audience to the older folks."

Mrs. Curtis believes that this confluence of residents from so many varied neighborhoods and interests is no accident.

"There is something that appeals to everyone at the carnival," she said.

It is perhaps the swift passage of time in the world away from the carnival that makes its familiarity so comforting to people, surmised Eastonite Kathleen Magner.

"It doesn't change [here] very much at all," she noted. Mrs. Magner observed that the rides, games, sights, sounds and food are what most people who have been to carnivals in Easton or elsewhere have etched into their memories.

"It's nice to go back and it's what you remember, what you think it is," she said.

Fire Chief Steve Waugh feels that the carnival is a way to establish and nurture a sense of fun and a time to relax within the community.

## Easton Firemen's Carnival brings families together

Written by Laura Modlin  
Friday, 12 August 2011 13:35

---

“People are building memories for the rest of their lives,” he said. But the underlying purpose of the event is also important. “Our goal is obviously that this is a fund-raiser.”

The carnival is the one major fund-raising event for the Easton Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1.

At the helm of this year’s carnival was Mike Ohradan. It was his second year as organizer and he has been in the fire department since 1988.

“It’s one of the biggest things that happens in Easton,” he said. “People have a good time at the carnival.”

His largest challenge as organizer?

“The weather. We can’t control it.”

And while the carnival was canceled on Wednesday night due to bad weather, it did run full steam Tuesday night and Thursday through Saturday nights, including its last evening in the rain.

The Manjoney family from Easton won the red 2011 Camaro in this year’s automobile raffle. And, the firemen raised a little over \$600 in their fill-the-boot donation drive for the 9/11 memorial, according to Lucy Markey Crossman, fire and life safety educator with the fire department.

Mrs. Crossman said that even with the hustle and bustle of putting on the carnival, the fun of the annual event is not lost on those within the fire department. “It’s not just the people who come that have fun,” she said. “We have a good time, too.”