



Chatham Fire Department Association's 63rd Fourth of July Celebration

Chatham, NJ - Parade Chairman, Deputy Chief Jeffrey Fricke has formally announced the details of this year's Fourth of July festivities. The Chatham Fire Department Association will once again host the annual parade and the fireworks display.

The day will begin with the flag raising and fire department inspection at 9:15am at the Borough Firehouse with the parade procession starting promptly thereafter. Beginning at 10:30am sharp, the parade will start at the intersection of Hillside Avenue and Main Street and will continue down Main Street towards Chatham Middle School. This year's sixty-plus unit parade features ten bands, nine fire departments, and numerous community organizations.

The Chatham Borough Police Department (CBPD) has noted that Main Street (Route 124) will be closed from 10:00am- 1:00pm during the parade and is now advising the public to plan alternate routes to avoid delays.

The Fourth of July Parade will happen rain or shine, but the rain date for the fireworks only will be July 5th, 2017 at the same time (9:30pm or dark).

2017 Parade Grand Marshal

The Parade Grand Marshal for the 2017 Fourth of July Parade will be **Jeff Davis**, Proprietor of Specialized Auto Craft, Chatham Borough. Jeff and Debbie Davis and Specialized Auto Craft have been in business for fort-four years on Ogden Street. "Jeff Davis has contributed to the Chatham fire department in numerous ways, where a price tag would be impossible to estimate", and "Having Jeff



Debbie Davis (L) and Jeff Davis

Davis as Grand Marshal of this year's Fourth of July Parade is a small way of saying thank you to a man who has saved our fire department tens of thousands of dollars by the work he has performed on our behalf", said Chatham Borough Fire Chief Doug Allan.

Jeff Davis has detailed our apparatus prior to the fourth of July Parade for many years, installed reflective chevron striping on the back of our trucks, painted our vehicles, when scratched at no cost to the Borough, adopted a fire hydrant in front of his shop and kept it clear of snow and painted it each year prior to the Fourth of July. He and his wife Debbie also donated a K-9 and Cat resuscitation kit to the Chatham Fire Department several years ago for use when a pet is overcome by smoke.

Asked why he does what he does, Davis responded “Because it’s my home town”. Davis also said, “When you live and work in a small town you need to give back”. Recently, when asked how he felt about being Grand Marshal of this year’s parade, Davis said very seriously, “Its Honor, truly an honor. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine being a Grand Marshal in Chatham’s Fourth of July Parade. I grew up watching this parade on Washington, Ave as a kid and Main Street as an adult”.

Fireworks Display & Entertainment

This year’s fireworks will take place at the Chatham Middle School Field on July 4th, 2017. The field is located at 480 Main Street in Chatham Borough and the fireworks will begin around 9:30pm or dark. However, the gates will open at 7:00pm and the public is invited to enjoy some musical entertainment prior to the fireworks. South Jersey’s premier vintage rock and soul band- The Bob Campanell Band - will be travelling straight from the south Jersey Shore to perform for the second Fourth of July in a row. After the performance, the 2017 fireworks will be set off by World Champion Santore Brothers of Garden State Fireworks of Millington, NJ.

Chatham Borough Fire Marshal, Walter Nugent, reminds all spectators that “any types of fireworks or sparklers are illegal and strictly forbidden from the school grounds” and cautions the public that “violators will be ejected and subject to arrest.”

All information ALERTS pertaining to parade or fireworks will be sent out via ALERTCHATHAMBOROUGH. To sign up, visit www.chathamborough.org.