

Story Ideas for Catonsville 2008 Parade and Fireworks

Please contact **Maureen Sweeney Smith** at **443-326-5474** or by e-mail at sweeneysmith@comcast.net if you would like to set up interviews.

- Organizer expect **record crowds** at the annual parade and fireworks as more Catonsville residents opt to stay home for the three day weekend due to the **high cost of gas**.
- The Catonsville Celebrations Committee works all year to produce the parade and fireworks. See the group as they prepare for the 62nd Annual Parade and meet the 2008 **Grand Marshal, Tom Connor**. Tom has been a member of this committee for **50 years!**
- July 4th is a great day for kids and that is especially true in Catonsville. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., kids will compete in **traditional games and races** for prizes. The annual bike decorating contest is a kid favorite!
- Producing a parade and fireworks show is expensive! The Catonsville Celebrations Committee's **budget exceeds \$100,000** for the first time. The fireworks and related expenses are \$30,000. Few know that each of the 13 marching band in the parade charges an average of \$2,000. See how volunteers are raising the money in these tough economic times when prices are soaring.
- Catonsville residents are passionate about their July 4th traditions and to make sure they get a good seat for the parade, they begin setting up chairs the week before the holiday. By July 2nd, **Frederick Road is lined with thousands of chairs**. Great photo opportunity for live shots.
- Catonsville Celebrations Committee's mascot, **Patriot Pete**, is a 7 foot costumed character with a three cornered hat. Get an inside look at the costume and see how he manages to stay cool on the sizzling 4th!
- One of the ways Catonsville attracts top notch marching bands is to feed them lunch. On July 3rd, dozens of volunteers will **prepare 1,000 sandwiches** to feed the bands at the Knights of Columbus, 1010 Frederick Rd. (10 a.m.)
- Zaget Restaurant Guide proclaims **Peggy Bailey**, a waitress at Jennings Café in Catonsville, as Baltimore Best Waitress. Peggy, dressed in a elegant July 4th gown, will be taking her annual ride down Frederick Road. It is a Catonsville tradition for her regular customers to call out their orders as she glides by.

For more information on these stories, go to www.catonsvillecelebrations.org. To set interviews, call Maureen at 443-326-5474.