



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fairfield Museum and History Center Gala Opening Celebration A Success

FAIRFIELD, CT (September 24, 2007) On Friday, September 14, community leaders, distinguished political figures, and many generous donors and supporters came to celebrate the opening of the region's newest cultural center, the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

The black-tie event was open to the public, as the museum seeks to open its doors to the entire community. The sold-out event treated over 350 guests to an evening that included a reception, dining in a tent on Fairfield's historic town green, dancing in the museum and program festivities. Bill Vogel, the museum's board president, was the first to speak, proposing a toast to all who helped make the museum possible. Seven years in the making, the museum was funded entirely through private donations, and some federal and state grants. Other speakers of the evening included gala committee co-chair, Patricia Spaght; Board President-Elect, Barbara Geddis-Wooten and the museum's executive director, Michael Jehle.

"Thank you. I will say this in many ways, to many people, but on behalf of the Fairfield Museum and History Center, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this evening possible," said Jehle.

In addition to providing guests with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the cultural center before its official unveiling, the evening was marked with special touches, including incorporating a tree from the town green into the interior of the tent, and honoring Rod MacKenzie, a long time employee of the Fairfield Historical Society, with a key to the building.

The new Fairfield Museum Shop was open for the occasion, a delicious three course meal was served by renowned catering specialist, The Canterng Caterer, and music, provided by The Silver Streaks Band, kept the crowd dancing until nearly midnight.



It took many hands to make the evening a success, including a committee of over 50 volunteers, and a team of sponsors including: Lead Sponsors Pepperidge Farm, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Northeast Auctions by Ronald Bourgeault, PNC Wealth Management and Webster Bank, and sponsorship by Brody, Wilkinson and Ober, P.C., Fairfield Center Jewelers and Fairfield Magazine. In addition there were generous donations from area businesses including, DIAGEO, Carol H. Wheeler Weddings & Special Occasions, Harry's Wine and Liquor, Mary Mayer Photography, Oliver Nurseries, Party Rental Ltd., Southport Marketing, and Stamford Tent & Event Services.

The evening was a prelude to the museum's public opening on Sunday, September 16. Approximately 5,000 people heeded the call to come celebrate and enjoy a day filled with a parade, ribbon-cutting ceremony, Revolutionary War re-enactment, period crafters, children's entertainment, music and fun on Fairfield's historic town green.

The Fairfield Museum and History Center is at 370 Beach Road, behind Town Hall, in Fairfield. Regular museum hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The research library is closed Mondays. Admission is \$5, \$3 for students (6 to 22 years of age with identification), free for museum members and children age 5 and younger. For additional information, visit www.fairfieldhs.org or call 203-259-1598.

Photos by Mary Mayer Photography & Kendall Spaght

Photo File	Caption
IMGP3118_2.jpg	Left to Right: Sally Wanamaker, Rip & Jill Littig, Chris Wanamaker
IMGP3246.jpg	Nan Redmond from Pepperidge Farm
IMGP3036.jpg	Fairfield Museum Shop creators: Meg Mack, Kathy Hamilton and Ann Stoddard
IMGP3196.jpg	John Santa, Jeffrey von Arx from Fairfield University and Museum Executive Director Michael Jehle
IMGP3152.jpg	Jan Perry and Senator John McKinney
DSC_2648.jpg	Patricia Spaght, Jacky Durrell and First Selectman Ken Flatto

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