



**NICHOLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
1773 HUNTINGTON TURNPIKE  
NICHOLS, CT 06611  
VISIT NIA at [www.nicholsct.org](http://www.nicholsct.org)

# N I C H O L S N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUNTEERS COMING TOGETHER FOR THE  
BETTERMENT OF OUR NICHOLS COMMUNITY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE HEART OF THE NICHOLS FARMS HISTORIC DISTRICT, NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## Harvest Wine and Cheese

*Saturday, October 24, 7:00pm,  
NIA Starkweather House*

It's time once again for the NIA Fall Wine and Cheese. Please join us on Saturday, October 25th, starting at 7:00pm, at the Starkweather House. Enjoy a night out, catch up with your Nichols neighbors or meet some new friends, all while sampling some great wines. Admission is \$10.00/person for members and \$20.00/person for non-members. All proceeds go to support NIA events including the Halloween Parade, Jingle Bell Run, Christmas Tree lighting and Christmas Bonfire. Bring your favorite fall appetizer to share. This event is always a great success with many members and their guests attending.

**October is membership month at the NIA!** Non-Members who come to the Wine and Cheese and sign up for a 2010 Family Membership will not be charged the Wine and Cheese event fee!! We look forward to seeing you there!



## Annual Halloween Parade & Jack-o'-Lantern Contest

*Sunday, October 25, 3:00pm,  
Nichols United Methodist Church  
Parking Lot*

### Halloween Parade

The Nichols Fire Department truck will lead the marchers around the NIA green to the front of the Starkweather House for awards and refreshments. Prizes will be awarded for Funniest, Prettiest, Most Original, and Scariest in each age group: Infant-Preschool; K-2nd; and 3rd-6th grade.

Costume design by the children is encouraged and will be taken into account during the judging. Please consider donating your time to help make this a fun and exciting event. Please

**c o n t a c t**  
Mary Beth  
Thornton  
(375-4364)  
to volunteer.



*continued as Halloween on back page*

## Jingle Bell Run

*Saturday, December 5, 9:30am*

The Nichols Improvement Association (NIA) will hold the 20th annual Jingle Bell Run on Saturday, December 5th, 2009. The 5K race begins at 9:30 AM in front of the Trumbull Nichols Library, and continues through the historic Nichols community, with a finish on Shelton Road considered one of the best race finishes in Fairfield County. The morning also includes the "Jingle Bell Jr.", a free 1/3 mile kids' fun run starting at 9:00 AM in front of the Shelton Road firehouse. An awards ceremony & refreshments will follow the race.

This year's race is dedicated to the memory of Joanna Bruner, a long-time Nichols resident whose tireless efforts on behalf of the Jingle Bell Run have helped make the race one of the premier holiday-season events in the area.



*continued as Jingle Bell Run on back page*

## October is NIA Membership Month This is the Time to Tell Your Friends and Neighbors About the NIA

Valued members, we ask that you tell your friends and neighbors about the NIA! Tell them that being an NIA member entitles them to our newsletter every month filled with the month's social activities and community news. Tell them about our Starkweather community house, the beautiful 42 acre property with 5 Pennies Playground, Frog Pond, baseball fields and walking trails available for our members to enjoy. The NIA is SOLELY FUNDED through membership dues and private donations. Your financial support is crucial to our on-going success. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN 2009.** We look forward to your continued support by joining the NIA for 2010.

**Membership Year: January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$15</b>	Covers one person only
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$50</b>	Covers entire family or visiting grandchildren of members
<b>Contributing</b>	<b>\$100</b>	Covers entire family or visiting grandchildren of members; provides additional support for operating budget
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$150</b>	Provides funding for long term plans and improvements.

*Please mail membership dues to Carrie O'Brien, 14 Carriage Drive, Trumbull CT 06611*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## A Beautiful Day for a Picnic

The NIA family picnic was held on Sunday, September 13th. It was a beautiful summer afternoon the perfect weather for a fun filled afternoon with family and NIA neighbors. Over 40 families enjoyed an afternoon filled with hamburgers, hotdogs, delicious homemade salads



Boys, including Matt Potvin (center), Patrick Grasso (right), enjoy ice cream from Polar Pete

and desserts. The kids were kept active with Ms. Bungles the clown who made unique balloon animals and hats and wild and crazy face painting. A special thank you to all the young ladies who were kept busy with a line of eager faces waiting to be transformed into a work of art! Kids got a real treat when a Nichols Fire Truck and Fire Fighters arrived for the kids to inspect.

The evening was topped off by a visit from Polar Pete. Nothing like a cold ice cream to end a delightful picnic. Thank you to all our great volunteers, especially Sheila Bowen and our grill master, Art Condron.

## Garden Club News

Nichols Garden Club will meet Tuesday, October 13, 7:00pm at the Starkweather House, 1773 Huntington Turnpike, Nichols. Karla Dalley, of West Hartford, will present "Holland Bulbs for All Seasons". She will discuss the many varieties of bulbs and how they can be enjoyed year 'round. Refreshments will be provided by Carol Konopka and Carol Ann Pisani. Please contact Eileen Giarniero for membership information at 377-6363.

## Halloween continued from front

### Jack-o'-Lantern Contest

All decorated pumpkins should be brought to the NIA House before the parade. Name and age should be printed on paper and attached to the bottom of the pumpkin.

Our Annual Chairpersons Steve and Barbara Sabo will award prizes in the categories of Silliest, Most Fierce, Most Colorful, Scariest, etc. Thanks go to the Sabos for their gracious annual service!!

We also depend on our terrific volunteers to help us out with an hour or so of their time (*and we have fun too!*)



## Jingle Bell Run continued from front

Pre-registered runners (and the first 150 runners thereafter) will receive a custom long-sleeve T-shirt and gift bag. Once again, the NIA is holding an artwork contest in conjunction with the race. Students attending Trumbull schools are encouraged to submit artwork; the winning entry will be featured on the front of the T-shirts worn by the runners (and the winner will receive a \$100 prize). The race fee before December 2nd is \$17 (\$20 thereafter); due to the anticipated number of runners, advance registration is strongly recommended. Pre-race pick-up for all pre-registrants will be on Friday, December 4th, from 5 PM to 8 PM at the Starkweather House. Race-day registration will take place from 7:30 AM to 9:15 AM at the Nichols United Methodist Church. For more race information and online registration, go to [www.hitekracing.com](http://www.hitekracing.com).

Proceeds from the race benefit the various ongoing works & projects of the NIA. Please consider becoming a volunteer with this great Nichols tradition. For more information on volunteering, please contact Fred Palmieri, Jr. at (203) 556-0146, or at [fpalmieri6134@earthlink.net](mailto:fpalmieri6134@earthlink.net).

## Save-a-Date

### Harvest Wine & Cheese

Saturday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.

*Starkweather House*

### Halloween Parade

Sunday, October 25, 3:00 p.m.

*NUMC parking lot*

### NIA Nichols Kids Care Books & Coat Drive

November 20-21

*Starkweather House*

### Jingle Bell Run

Saturday, December 5

Registration @ 7:30 a.m.

Run Begins @ 9:30 a.m.

*Nichols United Methodist Green*

## New Trees on the Green

Over the summer the NIA planted three new Dogwood trees on the green to replace a few that needed to be removed.

The following families' donations were used to purchase these new trees:

- Fusco
- Bowers
- Ricketson
- Gallo
- Amsden
- Faivre
- Stewart
- Duda
- Bombero
- Hansen
- Romano
- Iaccarino
- Polascik
- Neumann
- Armstrong
- Thornton
- Kryaniski
- Weiler.



## NIA 20th Annual Jingle Bell Run

*How would you like to be a part of it?*

*Submit your artwork for the runner's t-shirts!!!!!!*

For the 20th consecutive year, the Nichols Improvement Association (NIA) will be sponsoring the "Jingle Bell Run", the 5K race held every year in the Nichols community during the holiday season.

If you like to walk or run, you can always participate in the Jingle Bell Run. But this year, the NIA is looking for you to get involved in the race in a whole new way. If you are a student who attends a Trumbull school, you are encouraged to submit artwork for the T-shirts given out to runners who participate in the Jingle Bell Run. It doesn't matter if you're in kindergarten or getting ready for college – if you like to draw, this is the contest for you! The winning entry will receive a prize of \$100, and the winner will have the pleasure of seeing hundreds of people wearing his/her artwork on their shirts as they compete in this year's race.

Contest Rules:

- Artwork can not be larger than 8" x 10"
- Artwork MUST be original (no duplication of someone else's work!)
- Judges decisions are FINAL!!
- Artwork MUST be submitted by October 26, 2009 to Sheila Cardell, 155 Hilltop Circle Trumbull CT, 06611
- For additional information, contact Sheila Cardell ([spcardell@juno.com](mailto:spcardell@juno.com)) or Fred Palmieri ([fpalmieri6134@earthlink.net](mailto:fpalmieri6134@earthlink.net)).