

Hampshire Dome set for 'fun day'

Parenting New Hampshire's annual Family Fun Fair – a day of activities, games and entertainment for the whole family – is Saturday, April 18, at the Hampshire Dome in Milford.

The event is open to the public from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, children ages 3 and younger are free, with a \$20 cap for families.

More than \$7,000 in prizes is being given away at this year's Family Fun Fair.

Parenting New Hampshire editor Melanie Hitchcock says the state's premier parenting magazine is excited about the giveaways at this year's Family Fun Fair.

"We have some amazing prizes to give away including a number of tickets from New Hampshire's best attractions."

Some of the prizes include a family four pack to some of New England's best attractions – Canobie Lake Park, Conway Scenic Railway, Six Gun City, Funtown Splashtown USA, Santa's Village or Six Flags New England.

Are you a sports fan? You could win tickets to the Manchester Monarchs, Manchester Wolves, a suite night for up to 18 guests at the Fisher Cats and other assorted sports memorabilia.

And make sure you buy a raffle ticket to win a Hampshire Hills' family membership for two adults and all children for one year, a prize valued at \$2,500, and a one-week family stay at Jellystone Park valued at more than \$500.

The event is being held in partnership with the Hampshire Dome, American Defenders, and Jump Around and is sponsored by CHaD, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, Hannaford, WMUR and WZLH, with proceeds benefiting the nonprofit organization Child and Family Services of New Hampshire.

The Family Fun Fair will also feature live performances by New Hampshire musicians Mango Groove and Steve Blunt, as well as activities ranging from Vertical Dreams Rock Climbing Wall, skateboarding demos by Rye Airfield, Guitar Hero, Tokyo Joe's martial arts, face painting, Backyard Adventures playset for climbing, bounce houses and slides, performances by N-Step Dance Center, Chuckles the Stiltwalker and more.

For more information on the Family Fun Fair and a \$1 off admission coupon, go to www.parentingnh.com.

Parenting New Hampshire is a publication of McLean Communications of Manchester, which also publishes New Hampshire Home, New Hampshire Business Review, New Hampshire Magazine, Boom! and NH.com.

Finding family



TOP: Resident Blanche Pelletier, who sits at the head of the table where the numbers are spit out by the bingo tumbler, marks her cards during a recent game.

LEFT: Paul Aubin checks in on friend and resident Bob Capelaro at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center and Nursing Home in Jaffrey. The 79-year-old Milford resident volunteers at the facility every week.

BELOW: Aubin takes his turn calling a few bingo games.

Photos by Annie Card

Orphaned as a child, Milford man learns about love later in life

By ANNIE CARD
Correspondent

JAFFREY – While volunteer Paul Aubin of Milford distributes bingo cards, residents shuffle or wheel themselves into the community room at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center and Nursing Home in Jaffrey. Some residents have been ready for 20 minutes and can't understand what's taking so long.

"They would play all day every day if they could," Aubin said. "They take it very seriously."

Some games pay 25 cents to the winner, others 50 cents or \$1.

"I'm a recycled teenager, I tell people, because I still act like one," Aubin said. He will be 80 in August. Trim and agile as a teenager, he wears slim-cut Levis and a satiny Red Sox jacket over a maroon sweater. His face is barely lined from eight decades of hard work and not always happy times. His blue eyes are clear and kind.

By 9:30 a.m., Aubin has helped 18 residents get ready for a recent big game. Men and women are seated in chairs and wheelchairs around the tables where they ate breakfast. The air is full of elec-

tricity as they huddle over their cards and plastic bowls of red chips, a few of them playing as many as six cards at a time.

Before the first numbers are called, Aubin walks a box of doughnuts around the room, making sure everyone gets their favorite.

"He's part of our family. Everyone knows Paul," said Herta Jean, an activity aide at Good Shepherd.

Aubin left his house in Milford at 7 a.m. to arrive at Good Shepherd at 7:40. He's come once a week, every week, spending the first hour or so visiting with the men over breakfast.

He started playing bingo here when his wife moved in.

"Helen had a stroke in 1999. After rehab, the doctors said she needed to go to a nursing home, but I told them I wanted her with me. I had the strength and ability to take care of her then. 'You're going home with me, baby. No one's going to take you from me,' I told her."

"It was 24/7. I didn't do it alone. It was me and Helen all the way. We worked hard to stay together as long as we could."

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