

From:
To:
Subject: Pumpkin Festival Comments
Date: Friday, December 12, 2014 4:28:25 PM

I would like to support continuing the Pumpkin Festival. It is an incredibly important source of income for the local nonprofits and a wonderful family event. I, like everyone, am appalled by the behavior in the Winchester Street area. That kind of violence has no place in our community. I greatly appreciate the response of the Keene Police Department, the Cheshire County Sherriff, and the New Hampshire State Police. I live in a neighborhood close to the College and understand the frustration of the residents. Bad behavior is not limited to Pumpkin Festival weekend. We need to find a way to address the behavior problems without taking away a wonderful community event. Thank you for asking! Carl Allen, 11 South Street, Keene, NH.

From: [Patty Little](#)
To: [Michele Chalice](#)
Subject: FW: Pumpkinfest 2015 Suggestion
Date: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 12:09:50 PM

From: Mayor Kendall Lane
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 11:47 AM
To: Patty Little
Subject: FW: Pumpkinfest 2015 Suggestion

[Another for the forum record.](#)

From: Timothy Zinn
Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 9:22 PM
To: Mayor Kendall Lane
Subject: Pumpkinfest 2015 Suggestion

Mr Lane,

I was fortunate to attend tonight's meeting at Keene State college and participate in the dialogue. I sure the topic of limiting gathering sizes has come up among all the suggestions that have probably come your way, but I wonder if a couple variables have been discussed.

- Could the restriction be held to the dates specific to Pumpkinfest? Perhaps a 3 day requirement (before, during, after) that any gatherings of over 50 people on residential property require a permit?
- Could another option be to further confine that ordinance to a certain portion of Keene during that time frame? Obviously the college hot spots surrounding the downtown area would be the main focus.
-

Both these options would allow law enforcement to act sooner and hopefully prevent large mobs from gathering.

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my concerns publicly.

Sincerely,
Tim Zinn
43 Grove St.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: SEMEla Xanthopoulos **

Address: 553 Washington st.

Keene, NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- As a resident born and raised in Keene I want to first say I am for pumpkin festival.
- Local Businesses should have the opportunity to sell product on the street
- I think the Keene police and other community took the appropriate actions necessary.
- I believe KSC should bear the burden of initial security cost during pumpkin festival and other major events.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

We've already taken away the three day street fair and the international festival. 1st night crowd is out with

The students arrested should be ordered by the judge to make a public apology and answer questions regarding why?

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

[Fines for students or individual's found to be violating - Jail time if fine cannot be paid]

One speaker mentioned sending a message by ending purple festival and that ending it will take our community out of harms way.

I believe ending the festival will do the opposite. It will send the message that as a city we ~~are~~ are willing to give up because of some crimes. As a landlord and resident of Kresna of course I want my city safe and I don't want to pay an increase in taxes due to the increasing budget.

Fines for KSCW

KSC students being on break during festival will just create problems for local businesses and it will also mean a separation bet. the

****Semela Xanthopoulos comments:**

-As a resident born and raised in Keene I want to first say I am for Pumpkin festival.

-Local businesses should have the opportunity to sell product on the street.

-I think the fire, police and college community took the appropriate actions necessary.

-I believe KSC should bear the burden of initial security cost during Pumpkin festival and other major events.

We've already taken away the three day street fair and the international festival. 1st night, ice & snow, art walk. The students arrested should be ordered by the Judge to make a public apology and answer questions regarding why?

Fines for students or individuals found to be rioting - jail time if fine cannot be paid. One speaker mentioned sending a message by ending Pumpkin festival and that ending it will take our community out of harms way. I believe ending the festival will do the opposite. It will send the message that as a city we are willing to give up because of some punks. As a landlord and resident of Keene of course I want my city safe and I don't want to pay an increase in taxes due to the increasing budget.

Fines for rioting! KSC students being on break during the festival will just create problems for local landlords and it will also mean separating KSC from the community.

Patty Little

From: Valerie Woiciechowski
Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2014 3:08 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: PUMPKIN FEST

The pumpkin fest has been a huge tradition here in Keene NH for years. This is something that I remember going to as a teen and then bringing my own children too.

Yes this year had a few bumps, but for those that were at the festival were none the wiser. The riots were contained very well and I feel that with the consequences

Received by those involved this is not going to be an ongoing issue.

The Pumpkin fest does bring money to our community, not just to our local businesses but to our non-profit organizations. Taking away the festival could handicap

Our local businesses causing downtown to collapse and/or prices to increase.

The pumpkin fest put Keene on the map, it would be very sad to see it go

Thank you for your time

Valerie Wociechowski
Toyota Volvo Of Keene
F&I Manager
603-354-5013

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 11 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

MAURICE F. WHITNEY
677 COURT ST.
KEENE, N.H. 03431
603-354-4247

12/10/14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
KEENE SENTINEL

60 WEST ST. KEENE, N.H.

TO ALL OF YOU WHO LOST POWER ON
THANKSGIVING DAY THERE IS A REAL SIMPLE
SOLUTION FOR 99% OF ALL POWER OUTAGES
AND IT WILL NOT COST YOU A PENNY. IN FACT
IT COULD LESSEN YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS IN
THE FUTURE AND DO AWAY WITH THOSE BULKY
BAULKY GENERATORS THAT CAN EASILY KILL
YOU.

PSNH SPENDS MORE THAN 13 MILLION
DOLLARS EVERY YEAR TO REMOVE TREE BRANCHES
NEAR POWER LINES. THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! ANY
AND ALL TREES THAT CAN REACH THE POWER
LINES WHEN TOPPLED OVER SHOULD BE REMOVED.
THIS WOULDN'T DENUDE THE AREA AS A 15' TREE
COULD BE ONLY 15' FROM THE LINES. TO BURY
THE LINES AS SOME HAVE SUGGESTED WOULD COST

AROUND $1\frac{1}{2}$ MILLION DOLLARS PER MILE.

ABOUT THE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL:

OF THE 39 PEOPLE WHO SPOKE AT THE FORUM ON DEC. 2 ONLY 9 WERE IN FAVOR OF DOING AWAY WITH THE FESTIVAL COMPLETELY, 30 WERE IN FAVOR OF ITS YEARLY EXISTANCE AND MANY WOULD LIKE BETTER NOT BIGGER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS THE PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THE YEARLY UNLAWFUL DRINKING FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS AND OTHERS.

Maurice F. Whitney

Jessica White. 35 year resident and local.

Co-admin for Keene Pumpkinfest Move it or Lose it Facebook Page.

I was born in Keene and raised here. My mom was born here at Elliot Hospital.

My mom and I lived on KSC Campus in Bushnell for 4 years while my mom went to college. I remember playing almost anywhere on campus because back then, well, it's was a place kids could safely play. I even walked to and from Wheelock Elementary school each day. Today, I own a home and have raised my two children here in Keene.

When I was on my own, I couldn't wait to buy my first home here in Keene. I always considered myself a local. Not just a resident, but a local. The difference... a resident "lives in a particular place for a long period of time." A local "belongs to a particular area or neighborhood, typically exclusively." Different from those that "reside" here, Keene is HOME to us "locals."

I don't want to take a lot of time talking about what has already happened. We are all very clear about that. Everyone is looking in several directions, placing blame in each. I'm ready to move forward. The conversations thus far have been dynamic and productive and I will help work to ensure that continues in whatever capacity I can.

I feel it is important to state that I believe all aspects surrounding the 2014 Festival & Riots need to be discussed when the decision on a 2015 Festival is made. This is a multifaceted situation where consideration to all angles is a must. Many are strictly focused on one aspect: the festival itself; or the Let it Shine Committee; or the college; or the City. What few have stated to this point, is that we need to look at more than just the riots this year and their escalation in years past, when deciding on a future festival. I'll address a few areas I feel need attention or observation. The end of my statement will be a snapshot of direct notes to different organizations. Also, I will finish with my thoughts regarding the November Resident forum at the library and the December forum at the College.

Ultimately, there are three ingredients to this year's havoc: the Festival; the College, and the City as a whole.

The Festival:

The festival has become too large; too costly; too repetitive; too confined. It's lost its luster and excitement. It no longer seeks to achieve a world record. The revenue it brings in has reached a plateau. More Main St. business owners are closing their doors because the revenue no longer outweighs the hassles. The continued public display of less than professional behavior by the Chair of the organization has cast a giant cloud over the festival. The Let It Shine committee itself, with its own site statement, has left their decision clear. Their statement reads "We, the board of Let It Shine, are only interested in producing another event if it is supported by the local community and if it is safe for the families that participate, the surrounding neighborhoods and all of our first responders." The community isn't supportive. Over the past four years, it has proven less safe for the surrounding neighborhoods and all of our first responders. As well as the additional 150+ responders we needed this year to protect those surrounding neighborhoods. Members of the Keene Police and Fire have commented that the "footprint" was at high risk; it was the intention of rioters to breach the festival and riot there. Although the footprint was untouched, it was at risk and this cannot be ignored for another year. The attention the festival brings is no longer all positive within the community. It has become an "excuse" as much as an "event."

Keene State College:

I acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of college students and faculty in bringing those students and their friends to justice that caused so much damage here in Keene. Any amount of participation in the riot behavior being addressed is important.

The college recently published a report about their economic impact on the city. Thank you, KSC, for the economic help you offer. But the report could continue on to discuss the amount of financial loss if it were to be a balanced report. The list of ways there is negative impact is substantial. And the behavior of students and their guests this year is proof. The local paper carries a court section laden with KSC students through the entire school season. Over the past 5 years of the festival weekend especially. While the higher end economic impact is important to the City and State, it's all the other impacts that mean more to us locals. Some don't want festival weekend changed because we should not be "held hostage" during that weekend. Reality: we are held hostage for nine months each year. To walk Main Street at night in the late fall with the foliage, and after dusk when it's lit up; that used to be a favorite pastime for me. Now, if I want to do that during the college school year, I'm met with rude, drunk, obnoxious students around every corner. A simple drive down Winchester St should be easy. But disrespectful students who fail to stop and look before crossing, on or off the crosswalks, or the frat houses littered with drunkards on the front lawns and porches yelling obscenities and blasting their music because it's their party time anytime. Morning afters; seeing piles of red solo cups and empties covering the lawn. Neighborhoods that used to be residential, now cluttered with bought up houses from landlords who don't even live here or check in, now looking horrible because of the constant trash. Yet, I own my home, I pay property taxes, and I have a standard of conduct for my property to keep my neighborhood presentable. I even risk a fine each time a car is parked on the grass on my own lawn I pay taxes on.

Students need to be more aware of the conversations they have in public and the behaviors they display. The community is not resentful because of this one year and this one instance of riots. The community has reached a boiling point where we are embarrassed at the thought that these students are our future leaders. That our young children see these behaviors and in many cases what they see is disturbing and inappropriate. Students need to remain cognizant all year they are here.

The City:

The City has a Mission and Values Statement. Many probably aren't aware of the motto "VOICE." Value Everyone. Obtain Public Input. Inform the Public. Continue to assess facilities and infrastructure. Establish Priorities. This mission ends stating: VOICE all the time, every day, in everything we do." As a community, many don't feel valued. Until now, our input is often not sought out. We don't feel informed. We question the Cities priorities regarding the community well being.

In 2008, the City implemented a Community Visioning Process. 1,200 members of the greater community discussed the future of Keene with a six vision focus. 1,000 pages in the finished document. The Vision states "In 2028 we have strategically managed our community's growth....maintaining its small-town character and friendly inviting atmosphere..." It goes on to say "we have created a community that supports the health, safety and wellness of (it's) citizenry." In 2008 they looked ahead 20 years and that's what they envisioned. Here we are, only 6 years in and we are standing here in the aftermath of riots.

Locals have expectations of the City, its Manager and its Mayor. We expect them to listen and to hear us. It's not us asking a favor, it's what we expect. Hear us loud and clear and when you make your decisions going forward keep each and every one of us in mind. Remember what we have said at the forums. Briefly, stop running the revenue numbers through your minds unless you run the debt that comes along with it.

Numbers, here are a few:

Over the past 5 years the City has increased its budget allowance to the festival by 52%.

Over the past 5 years, there has been a 20% increase in the cost of law enforcement needed to cover the weekend.

Overall, the two combined over 5 years is a 31% increase from our city budget.

KPD has stated for 2015 they will require more than double the law enforcement for the festival weekend.

Keene State issued 1,100 approved student guest passes the weekend of the festival.

C&S donated 15,000 pumpkins this year. The official count was approximately 21,000. Our festival attendance was over 75,000. If those that attended, only 6,000 brought carved pumpkins.

The projected "value" of law enforcement services for the festival and riots exceeds \$1,000,000. Although there is a code of conduct amongst these brotherhoods of police and rescue, there are expenses of this that will need to be paid.

To the KPD & KFD, I personally thank their exemplary efforts this year and in years past. They must keep reminding the City and the committees of just how strenuous this festival weekend is for them. The excessive staffing and exhausting efforts of all involved. They must stand their ground because we locals rely on them the most when things get out of hand. We are the ones that experience first-hand when they are not able to respond quickly. It isn't fair to them or to us. Continue to map the inconveniences this causes with emergency routes and planning.

Ideas going forward:

KSC

Do not allow 1,100 guest passes for festival weekend in 2015

Continue working towards on campus living and hold student housing landlords more accountable for those that rent from them.

Spend more time emphasizing respect to students. The behavior of ONE represents the entire student body.

Expect Students that hear and see planned chaos before it happens to report it.

To the City/KPD/Residents:

Year round enforcement on students. On and off campus.

Local businesses need to be stricter with unruly students.

Council and committees work with locals on new ideas to replace the faded festival. Bring back an old past time like the Street Fair. Or let's create a new event, something we can try for a new record with, and something during the summer/fall when college is not in full season.

At a minimum, relocate the footprint. Shift it up Main Street or more West. Review the city map and find alternatives. Look to surrounding areas and research different locations that will offer the great parts, and help alleviate the negatives. I believe part of this truly requires a new leadership and organization with planning the festival.

It's not feasible to ask 20+ businesses to not sell alcohol. It's not fair or feasible to ask the college to rearrange their academic schedule and bring in 5,600 sets of parents for parent weekend at the same time we have 75,000 people looking at pumpkins in the same streets. Those parents want to come visit, have options on places to stay, and see Keene for what it is on a normal weekend. We've proven moving the weekend of the festival isn't the answer. And having it on Halloween creates more chaos for trick or treating. Bus routes all over town with kids walking house to house...or college students opting to riot in full Halloween costumes and blending in... a recipe for more damage.

To all Non-Profits and Main Street businesses:

You are "mobile" and most flexible as a piece of the puzzle. The set-ups you bring to Main Street can go anywhere the festival goes. If there is no festival, help generate ideas for a new event that will help your fundraising.

In closing, I felt the December forum was productive and important to this decision process. A facilitated meeting proved to be a great format and I am impressed how it was moderated.

One very important take-away I had from that meeting is that, of the 39 people that spoke, most seemed to be affiliated with the festival organization in some way or a program that benefited from the festival. The forum held in December, which drew in 70 people, had over 50 people speak. And they all spoke against having another festival because of the negative impact on every other aspect. This can be confirmed by talking to the current and former City Councilors that attended in addition to the VP of Student Affairs of KSC. Their presence in November allowed them to hear more sides than what we heard in December. This made me experience firsthand that these forums are valuable, but altered by who puts them on, who and where it is hosted, and who the target audience is. The forum hosted by residents for residents, with no formal invitation to a council or specific community positions, had a different group of people willing to speak.

To each person that was present at one or both of these forums, and to those that made time to submit a written letter, I appreciate your willingness to help and your desire to see changes. Whether we "move it" or "lose it" in regards to the festival, we have opened up conversation about it and many other issues that I am optimistic will gain the necessary attention needed to invoke change.

I look forward to being involved in any way I can on this matter, and future matters as they arise.

Jessica White, Keene NH

DEC 12 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

Riot / Pumpkin Festival Comment

It would be a huge mistake to cancel the Pumpkin Festival. Keene has become nationally known for the Festival, people come here for an enjoyable and festive day. The many Keene residents who take pride in our community want the Festival to continue. I agree with those favoring continuation of the Festival.

I have a suggestion and I think this is important: The results of legal action taken against the rioters should be sent to every media outlet in New England. Newspapers, college campus newspapers and TV stations.

The Keene Sentinel is a good example of this with articles and pictures of those indicted and their offenses

The City government and the Sentinel can confer on just how to spread this news.

.The riot gained some national attention and I think the results of legal action will gain New England attention and perhaps national attention.

Someone kicked out of college with no reimbursement of tuition, room and board should have students not only a KSC but other colleges thinking twice about riotous behavior.



Peter Weinert, Keene

7 Riverton St
Keene, NH

352-3060

December 11, 2014

Anne E. Huot, Ph.D.
President
Keene State College
229 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire
03435

Dear President Huot,

Thanks to you and Mayor Kendall Lane for the opportunity to register my thoughts on the recent Pumpkin Festival riot.

My major concern is the influence of alcohol on the behavior of Keene State College students and others on the night of October 17, during the day and into the night of the 18th. I think no one doubts that alcohol was a prime factor in the resulting mayhem. I would like to make one observation and offer one alternative for the college administration and senior class to be proactive in its desire to change the current campus climate of binge drinking.

One, I think that because the college sanctions, whether actively or passively, the fall and spring senior class pub crawls, it is saying in effect that it's okay to drink en mass during the day and in downtown Keene. I believe that these pub-crawls are organized with teams of seniors hitting a certain number of bars for a certain time period. I understand that the one that took place last month consisted of each team going to seven bars for a period of an hour or so. You do the math. If each student had only one drink at each establishment that equals seven drinks, well over the recommended alcohol intake. Are pub-crawls something the college wants to encourage to continue? Is this a healthy tradition?

Why not ask the senior organizers to start a new tradition.

What I would suggest is to replace pub-crawls with a more wholesome alternative. Towns in the Monadnock region have what are called "Old Home Days" where the community comes together for games and camaraderie. Often times a potluck supper or ice cream social are held along with games such as one legged races, potato sack races, balancing an egg on a spoon races, etc. Wouldn't it be nice if KSC and the graduating class sponsored such a day on the quad for seniors in the fall and again in the spring to have a fun afternoon of such activities? Teams could compete against one another in these hilarious, non-alcoholic games. The college could offer students a cook out, ice cream sundaes, and non-alcoholic drinks. You could purchase some sort of showy trophy (an

owl?) that would be awarded to the winning team. That team's name would be inscribed on the trophy and showcased in a prominent place on campus. Each year the trophy could be brought out and displayed the week or so before the games to build up interest and healthy competitive juices. It could be called the Keene State College Senior Challenge.

The time has come to end the pub-crawls and to replace them with something that demonstrates the college's commitment, students and administration alike, to sponsor events that teach students that fun can be had in an alcohol free setting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Christine H Weeks
Keene resident

Cc: Mayor Kendall Lane ✓
City of Keene
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

From: [Patty Little](#)
To: [Michele Chalice](#)
Subject: Pumpkin Festival Comment
Date: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 10:25:09 AM

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Help Desk
Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 5:27 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Question Received via Home Page

A citizen request has been submitted via the City website. Click one option below to respond.

From:

Subject: PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Question or Comment: AS A LONG TERM RESIDENT OF KEENE AND REMEMBERING THE PUMKIN FESTIVALS FROM THE BEGINNING, THIS IS A TRADITION WE LOOK FORWARD TO EACH YEAR. TO ALLOW OUT OF CONTROLLED YOUTHS FROM KEENE STATE COLLEGE TO RUIN OUR PUMPKIN FEST, WOULD BE TERRIBLE. MERCHANTS RELY ON THE INCOME FROM OUR VISITERS. IT NEEDS BETTER MANAGEMENT AND KEENE STATE COLLEGE SHOULD PAY THE ENTIRE COST OF THE FEST. WE NEED TO TAKE CONTROL OF OUR CITY AND WE NEED TO PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW. ALL THE COLLEGE HAS TO DO IS MANDATE ALL STUDENTS TO LEAVE CAMPUS AND NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTER THE PUMKIN FEST ENDS.

Send Email and Log Response (login required): https://apex.ci.keene.nh.us/apex2/f?p=201:6:::NO::P6_ID:11752

Email Only: https://apex.ci.keene.nh.us/apex2/f?p=201:15:::NO::P15_ID:11752

My name is Beth Truman. I am a resident of Keene and the mother of three children in the Keene School system. I was born here and have lived here my entire life. I have been a volunteer in the Monadnock region for many years working with local non-profits including the Monadnock United Way, Keene ICE, MoCo, Cedarcrest, the Cheshire Medical Center's Public Health Department, the Keene Public Library and others. I have also, in the past, been a very vocal supporter of the Keene Pumpkin Festival and have volunteered during the festival and during auxiliary events related to the Festival. I do understand very well the role that Pumpkin Festival plays to the local non-profits.

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude for the Let It Shine board members and the events that they have put on in the past. Your hard work and dedication to this community is inspiring.

This year's Festival, did, in fact, happen with little incident inside the Festival itself. However, the events that happened outside the festival were nothing short of terrifying, destructive and chaotic. Although the people who put on the Festival are not responsible for the Keene Pumpkin Riots, as they have been dubbed by media sources, they are nonetheless and unfortunate and directly related cancer on the face of the Festival.

To move the Festival to another location, in my opinion, would not deter these events, parties and destructive behaviors from happening. They are inexorably linked by simple virtue of having a set date, thanks to the wonders of social media and informal electronic news outlets.

The events that have grown over the past few years in the form of parties that turn destructive and chaotic, did, no matter how

we'd like to spin in, turn into rioting during the 2014 Pumpkin Festival.

These riots brought in law enforcement and emergency support that has a hefty price tag, as well as undermining the safety of the citizens within the Festival itself. The second that even one life is in danger; we have a responsibility to do everything in our power to prevent that from happening. It is simply the right thing to do. Our firefighters, EMTs and police force were put in harms way due to the cancerous growth of the Pumpkin Festival, as were these officials from other towns.

Is it a shame that these events have ruined what was meant to be a beautiful community event? Yes, of course. But, does that mean that it is responsible to dig in our heels and continue to put it on, while ignoring the very real possibility that next year's damage could be worse? Absolutely not. What if there

had been deaths during the festival? Would we even be here?
What if there are next year, and we had the power – right now
– to TRY to stop that from happening?

The Director of Let it Shine is quoted as saying “If we can’t put
on a safe Festival, we will not put one on at all. “

It is for these reasons that I do not wish to see the Festival
continue. It is time for it to end. Permanently. A hiatus will
not stop destructive cancers from forming in the future, as any
marketing opportunity that we see now as a positive for the
community such as “Pumpkin Festival is BACK!” Is the same
marketing angle for detractors and partiers to use to attract
people to their events.

We are a community, we act as a community and we stand up
for our own. The most powerful message that we can send is

that We Are One Community and We Cannot Tolerate These
Acts.

I respectfully thank you for your time.

Patty Little

From: Mayor Kendall Lane
Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 3:51 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: FW: How to keep the Pumpkinfest forever...

This should be part of the report prepared as a result of tonight. I will not ask for hard copies of all responses to the Forum, but they should not be anonymous.

Kendall

From: Todd Tousley
Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 2:57 PM
To: anne.huot@keene.edu; Mayor Kendall Lane; John MacLean
Subject: How to keep the Pumpkinfest forever...

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you because I was planning on speaking at tonight's forum but have to go out of town unexpectedly. I have a lot to say about the recent events and am passionate about finding a way to keep our wonderful tradition we call Pumpkinfest. I was born and raised in Keene and am also an alumnus of KSC. I've owned Penuche's Ale House since 1990 and have been involved with the Pumpkinfest, as a businessman who benefits from it, and on a personal level with my wife and family the entire 24 years of its existence. In my opinion, It is **one of the most important things** that has ever happened to Keene! It's put Keene on the tourism map and brings in millions of dollars each year. **It must live forever.** However, these riots have indeed put a black eye on our reputation as a fun, family event for the entire country AND in the eyes of the townsfolk, who I fear are going to rally for its end. Think of Mardi Gras. There must be residual issues, but a wonderful tradition! Oktoberfest in Munich? 100's of years of tradition but there must be *some* problems. How do these amazing traditions live on and on?

In my opinion, the problems we are encountering are clearly not caused by the Pumpkinfest. It is solely centered around KSC and its underage student population. The Pumpkinfest is a huge, super exciting event that is acting as a **rallying point** for large gatherings of underage students and their friends from back home. Two years in a row, a party of well over 1000 underage drinkers have gathered in a field at the end of Winchester Court and two years in a row it has turned bad. This is **not** a Keene Pumpkinfest problem this is a **Keene State** problem! There is no denying it.

I have a few ideas. First of all, when I first bought Penuche's, St Patrick's day was huge! Big lines of people drinking all day long, similar to Pumpkinfest but on a smaller scale. Mostly KSC students, but not all. The KSC administration was constantly dealing with vomiting and disruptive behavior in the dining commons, ripped up shrubbery and knocked over benches and trash cans. What did the administration do? They scheduled Spring Break to coincide with St Patrick's Day **every year**. End of problem! I think that the solution to this new violent trend is simple. Ask (or force) the KSC administration to schedule a small fall break that always coincides with the Pumpkinfest. When the college is on break, students living in the dorms **must**

vacate by rule. Most students living in dorms are underage. Therefore, they will be forced to move back home for the weekend. Think about it. If 1/3 of the underage student population were drinking that day, say 800 kids, and each one of them had one friend visiting them from back home, that's 1600 kids! Where does a large group of underage kids drink? Outside on the field on Winchester Court. **Close the dorms, minimize the problem.** Everyone comes back Sunday night.

Now I know this won't eliminate the problem entirely. Even before the field partying began a year ago on Winchester Ct, there were still tons of kids partying in houses in the neighborhoods. But it was **MANAGEABLE!** How does New Orleans do it? Let's reach out to the NO police Dept and City hall for some direction. How does Munich do it? Let's reach out to them. Do you think anyone in their right mind would ever cancel Mardi Gras because of a riot or a death etc? Never. It's **too** big and **too** good. Same with Oktoberfest. **Never** would they cancel! It's a word we can **NOT** use. Let's find a solution to this problem! There was a bombing at the Boston Marathon. Do you think they would ever cancel it? No way. You **CANNOT** let the terrorists win!!

With that said, moving the fest to the fairgrounds spells it's doom. Moving it to a Tuesday night, same thing. Having a concert for all the underage kids in the gymnasium? **WILL NOT WORK!** All the underage student population must be forced to go home that weekend **EVERY YEAR** or trust me, that huge party will spill out onto the street again. Mark my words. Then you will end up cancelling the fest. This should never, **EVER** happen. It's **too** big. It's **too** good.

Todd Tousley
199 Baker Street
Keene, NH

From: [Mayor Kendall Lane](#)
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: FW: Comment and Suggestions On Events Occurring on Pumpkin Weekend
Date: Friday, December 12, 2014 11:35:44 AM

[Here is another one.](#)

From: Gary Tochterman
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 10:33 PM
To: Mayor Kendall Lane
Cc: Councilor Mitchell Greenwald; Councilor Bettina Chadbourne
Subject: Comment and Suggestions On Events Occurring on Pumpkin Weekend

12 December 2014

Mayor Kendall Lane
City Hall
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Mayor Lane

I am writing to share with you my opinions and recommendations around the Pumpkin Festival and the appropriate actions the City government should take to address the unrelated and illegal acts which occurred that weekend south of the downtown area.

1. There are those who feel the Pumpkin Festival shares some responsibility for the behavior which has occurred in the last two years and that it should be suspended from some period of time. I do not share this view. I attended this year's Pumpkin Festival and last year's and many others. This year we were there with out of town guests from about 3:30 to almost 9PM and had a very enjoyable time.

The Festival is nationally recognized for the family-friendly environment and fun it creates. I fail to see the logic in stopping something good so that some immature individuals may go somewhere else next year. I hope as a leader in this community you see why the City must address the root problem which is not the Festival.

I ask you and the City Government to support continuation of the Festival.

2. The events at the 2013 Festival were a clear precursor to this year's problems. The City could have and should have done more to address those problems. It didn't and so it should now.

a. The City and the City Manager should require concrete action by Keene State to control those members of it's student body who were involved. Do you think expelling 2 students is meaningful? I recommend the City engage with President Anne Huot of Keene State and Dr. Leach, Chancellor of the University of New Hampshire to remind him and the Trustees of the UNH System of the responsibilities it has to it's host communities and to ask them to engage

constructively with the City to do so.

- b. The City should seek to recover costs from Keene State incurred by the City and other property owners from this year's problems.
- c. The City should demand concrete actions from Keene State to control students over the Pumpkin Festival weekend. They could schedule Parent's Weekend then, they could close the campus dorms for the weekend, they could invite the National Guard to conduct emergency exercises over the weekend or they could do anything more effective than having the president send an email asking the "kids to be good".

3. I will be writing to Keene State President Anne Huot and to Dr Leach myself. Obviously, Keene State is a tremendous asset to this community and greater than the Pumpkin Festival. However the UNH System has let Keene down by appointing a leader who did nothing after 2013 but talk and send emails. Discussion is good but only if it leads to concrete results. This year's problems have hurt the City and they have hurt the "brand" of Keene State College. I'll do my bit, and I expect the City Government to do the same.

4. The City should require that groups over 75 gathering on a property on the weekend of the Festival have a permit. Obviously on a weekend when 40,000 people will be in town, it is only logical that other events should at least be permitted. We have to get a fire permit to burn brush and can't burn brush on Pumpkin Weekend for obvious reasons. Why can 1,000 people party on a Winchester Ct. property without a permit?

5. The City should take legal action against landlords and tenants on Winchester and Butler Courts. How can it be that two years in a row there are problems at particular properties there and no action is taken to recover costs and punish landlords and tenants? Further, the landlords and tenants should be held legally accountable for underage drinking that is continually occurring on these properties?

6. Finally, the public discourse is not ending on 12 December. It is your job as Mayor and the job of the City Council as well to make sure the root issues at Keene State, on Winchester and Butler Court and elsewhere are addressed. They were not after 2013 and we are all responsible for that. We all have to do our job this year.

Thank you.

--

Gary W. Tochtermann

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 10 2014

December 10, 2014

Mayor Kendall Lane

City Councilors

City Staff

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

I am writing to you in regards to end the annual Pumpkin festival. I appreciate the passion and energy that makes this function come together. However, it is time for something new.

The truth is that the Pumpkin festival is no longer a community event. There was a time when we used to carve our own pumpkins that we purchased or picked by ourselves. Now we have thousands of pumpkins donated by corporate sponsors and armies of people assembled by corporate sponsors.

It is easy to blame Keene State College students for the demise of this event. In reality we need to blame every one. We have painted a target on the City of Keene for the world to see. Zippo, network television, contests against Boston. What do we expect will happen?

Let's get back to basics. The talent and energy it takes for this event can, and should be, used to start a new community based event. We don't need the entire world taking over our streets.

This event was really intended to benefit non profit organizations. Each year the City spends Tens of Thousands of Dollars to help organize this event. I say we just skip the event and donate the money directly to the non profits. It's really quite simple.

Sincerely,

Toby Tousley

499 Washington st

Keene, NH



DEC 12 7/114

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

PUMPKIN FEST - Is it worth it?

We all want to get to the bottom line, "Do all the positive aspects outweigh the growing list of social and financial costs tied to this festival?" And, "Who benefits the most and who bears the true costs?"

BENEFITS: It is generally accepted that Pumpkin Fest is a terrific fundraising venue for many civic minded groups throughout the Monadnock Region. Business is said to BOOM during the Fest which is thought to be good for the economy of our town and region. During the Fest, rain or shine, day or night, Main Street in Keene has an undeniable warmth and glow that emanates from the mix of happy hearts and the burning candles in the jack-o-lanterns.

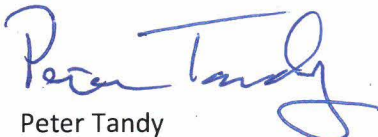
COSTS: Some of the direct financial costs of the Pumpkin Fest may be covered by vendor booth fees, and large contributions from private businesses or individuals. Many people believe that the Keene City Council donates upwards of \$50,000 from property taxes to aid the Festival each year. Furthermore, Keene taxpayers pay substantial hidden costs due to the enormous amounts of time required of our valued Public Works staff, Police and Fire personnel for Festival related work. The hours spent by Keene public employees on Festival work could be used to advance many other goals that lead to an equal or greater level of social good for Keene.

At this point in time ...

- Many Keene property owners feel SQUASHED by the weight of Pumpkin Fest costs
- The City of Keene has effectively implemented a hidden Pumpkin Fest TAX on its property owners - paying for direct and hidden Festival costs.
- The social costs associated with the Pumpkin Fest have increased dramatically. Unfortunately, the Fest has become an "attractive nuisance" that seems to call out to many who want an excuse to be disruptive, damage property or engage in an all-out riot.
- The Keene City Council should be forthcoming and list the direct and indirect expenses incurred by city government departments while addressing Pumpkin Fest issues throughout the year. i.e. How much is being spent for planning as well as implementation.?

PUMPKIN TAX: Keene property owners are the only citizens in Cheshire county who pay taxes to support the Pumpkin Fest. That's just wrong and the City Council should stop this practice! If the Festival continues, the organizers should plan to pay 100% of the direct costs without relying on tax dollars from the citizens of Keene. Pumpkin Fest should also pay the extensive cost of city employee labor required to plan and implement this logistically challenging event.

Keene residents may demand a referendum vote to determine if our taxes should continue to be used to support the significant financial and social costs associated with the Pumpkin Festival.



Peter Tandy
147 Roxbury St, Keene

355-8027

From: [Patty Little](#)
To: [Mayor Kendall Lane](#); [Michele Chalice](#); [Rhett Lamb](#)
Subject: FW: Pumpkin Fest public comment submission
Date: Thursday, December 04, 2014 3:09:42 PM

FYI

From: Stroshine, Alan
Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Pumpkin Fest public comment submission

To whom it may concern,

I was unable to attend the public forum on Tuesday night but watched it on TV last night. Thank you for extending a period for additional public input.

I am a lifelong resident of this area and am raising my own family here. For roughly the last 15+ years, I've volunteered in some capacity at the festival through connections with various nonprofit organizations. Both my children have marched many times in the children's costume parade, and it used to be a source of pride for our community. The festival has become something that is well beyond what it was started to be, and we have reached a point where we can no longer reasonably control or influence the negative elements that are tied to Pumpkin Fest weekend. Despite considerable planning and effort on the part of Let it Shine, the city of Keene and Keene State College, 2014 proved that Pumpkin Fest weekend is now a targeted event for local college students, their out of town friends, as well as out of town event organizers to create an environment that is real threat to public safety and property.

What was once billed as an event to showcase our community and held out as an example of community spirit and pride, is now overshadowed by an opportunity for binge drinking which turns into riot activity. The Keene Police and Fire Departments deserve enormous thanks for coordinating their efforts in keeping those elements from reaching the festival footprint. I also think there was a little bit of luck that more catastrophic consequences didn't occurred on that weekend. I don't think it wise to test that fate any longer.

I understand the impact to local nonprofits. I am associated with a number of those organizations that have benefited from festival proceeds in the past. These organizations are loaded with intelligent engaged members of our community who will come up with new fundraising opportunities and move forward.

Someone at the forum made a very impassioned and articulate speech declaring "Pumpkin Fest is who we are, it's what we do". I would like to respectfully disagree with that individual, and say that he sells this community way short of who we really are. I love this community because we are much more than that. We are not a fall festival. We are a collection of committed, engaged and socially conscious citizens who have always come up with new and innovative ways to perpetuate and grow the social capital we enjoy in this community. We are not defined by a single event, or date on the calendar, but a spirit that is focused on maintaining our quality of life and where we are proud to say we live here.

Pumpkin Fest has had a long and lasting impact on our community, and that can't be taken away from us. However, changing times and other influences have changed the trajectory of the event to force us to make material changes. I have every faith that this community will organically develop things to replace the energy and pride the festival once produced for us, but strongly believe it's time to move on.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Some additional, more pragmatic feedback/input

The City of Keene will require *Additional Insured* status on the event insurance policy. I have serious doubts if Let it Shine will be able to secure event insurance given the most recent history. City Council should confirm that is in place before voting to on any event permit request.

I've been encouraged with how visible and engaged president Huot has been since 10/18. I'm also happy to see a large number of KSC students recognize the impact to the college's reputation and taking action to improve the relationship with the community. That being said, I was very disappointed when I read the details of the discipline handed out by the college. I don't know what I expected, but it certainly was more than 2 expulsions. Accountability for actions will go a long way toward influencing future behavior, and placing the majority of those students involved on probation sends a very clear message that there are no real consequences. I expected the college to send a much clearer message and stronger statement to those involved. It's one thing to take verbal responsibility for something, but so much more when there is actual accountability applied.

I think the city should publish the final costs incurred from the festival. There is no doubt that the budgeted amount must have been blown out of the water when calls went out to resources from the state and other towns. It would be a very effective gesture if the University System of NH stepped in and picked up that tab since the majority, if not all the extra expense was focused on the neighborhoods in and around KSC.

Alan Stroshine
27 Salisbury Rd
Keene

December 10, 2014

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

My name is Nancy Sporborg. I have lived in the City of Keene my entire life and raised my family here. I started the Pumpkin Festival in 1991 and ran it for 8 years. It was my baby. I created the festival because of something horrible that happened to me, in an unconscious attempt to turn horrific into beautiful. The festival restored my belief that good eventually wins over evil. And when Newtown, Connecticut, decided to run a Pumpkin Festival as a way to heal from the horrific killing of the Sandy Hook Elementary School children, I realized again that there is incredible healing power in the Keene Pumpkin Festival. Healing power that the world needs.

I wasn't going to write a letter because I firmly believe that it is the community as a whole that needs to want and fight for the Pumpkin Festival. But I couldn't stand to have this process go forward without saying my piece.

As the founder of the Keene Pumpkin Festival, I can tell you that it is the most beautiful community-gathering full-of-light thing that happens in Keene NH. You may not be able to see it now, but in many years to come, when we will look back on the Keene Pumpkin Festival, it will shine as a extraordinary example of light and spirit that brought a community together for a greater good, and inspired other communities to try and do the same.

Please don't let evil take that away. Don't let violent young adults decide the fate of Keene's pride and joy. They didn't cancel the Boston Marathon when it was bombed in 2013. They didn't cancel the Olympics after Palestinians took the Israeli Olympic Team hostage and eventually killed them. They have not canceled all airplane transportation after 9/11. They do not abandon cities after hurricanes and natural disasters. We rebuild. We rise above. We find a way to deal with the evil or the violence and we keep the good shining as bright as we can through our own hearts and hard work. That is who we are as human beings. We band together and rise above when bad things happen. This is what defines the human spirit.

If Keene State College had a real commitment to our community and their students, they would pull students and faculty together into a Save the Pumpkin Festival Team and join the Pumpkin Festival management, pledging to run the safest, most beautiful Pumpkin Festival ever. If the City Council helicopters up to see the big picture and stays true to the beauty and good in our city, and aligns themselves with the positive, they would band together and pledge the same thing. Together we can fix this and heal our community.

Want to make GOOD NEWS? Respond to the riots that took place at Keene State College during the Pumpkin Festival by banding together as a community and working every solution we can come up with to run the most spectacular safest

world-record-setting event for the 25th anniversary of the Keene Pumpkin Festival. That is how to keep Keene safe, how to win over evil and how to restore the reputation of both Keene and the Keene Pumpkin Festival. That is how we pull the community together for a greater good. That is the way we want to make national news.

The Keene Pumpkin Festival has done more for the City of Keene, for a generation of our youth, for our downtown, for our employers bringing in new and energetic employees and families, for our local nonprofits and for the State of New Hampshire than can be measured in the present. We have shown the world what is possible for a small community when we think big and act on it, not letting anything get in the way of our goal. How many other communities can do what we do? And you are going to let that slip away because you are afraid? That is not who we are!

The community needs leadership. They need help rising above their own personal line of sight to see the bigger more beautiful inspiring picture. We all need that sometimes. As Mitchell Shakour said to me, "What is happening in Keene is a microcosm of what is happening in the world." I ask: Do we want to be a part of the solution for Keene and an example to the world by solving the problems as part of running the Festival or do we want to let the violence intimidate us and the size of the problems overwhelm us by shutting down the Keene Pumpkin Festival?

It is your choice – does good win over evil? Are you, as City Councilors, instruments for war or peace? Do violent Keene State College students and their friends douse our light? Does the human spirit triumph? Does the City Council inspire or spread fear? When we look back, 100 years from now, is Keene, NH, an incredible example of the triumph of the human spirit or are we an example of a community gone wrong? It is up to you.

With gratitude to Center Stage, Let It Shine, and a community who has brought up a generation loving pumpkins,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Sporborg".

Nancy Sporborg
8 Sugar Maple Lane
Keene, NH 03431
603-903-3858

CC: Let It Shine Board of Directors, Keene State College President Dr. Anne Huot

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: HARRY BOYNTON ^(D) (EOC)

Address: WALPOLE

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I WORK IN THE EOC AS A LET IT SHINE REPRESENTATIVE
HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON WHAT HAPPENED AND
THOUGHTS ON PREVENTION IN FUTURE
WHERE THE PROBLEMS ARE
The festival not responsible — parties the problem —
outside influences — provide a place to party away
from Downtown

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Maurice Whitney

Address: 677 Court St. Keene N.H.

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- Keep the festival for the children and develop a governing
word of students to control off-campus activity
- A boon to community - need to control rowdy behavior
 - Committee (43 people) KSC students - Adm - Security
+ get violence drugs + booze
to be eliminated

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(3)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Emily Fennes

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Keene State College - huge family aspect
- although the actions were horrendous,
the KSC community came together immediately
to attempt to mend the broken bond.
- Riots do not reflect students
- this is her home

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(4)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Ryan Ulrich

Address: 21 Capron Road

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Cancelling the P-Fest will not solve the problem.

Not PF that caused the riot - very important to community
outside influences to blame
Do not cancel PF -

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.



☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Becky May

Address: 5 Central Square
Terrace Apt #204

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

The behavior was unacceptable. Pumpkin
Festival is important to keep for Life Art
Community Resource Center. Receive funds.
Faith based person - prayer - that things get better

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(6)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: John F. DiBernardo

Address: 15 Cobb St., Kern

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Responsibility of City Council:

Island St. Neighborhood — witnessed growth of
P.F. — he doesn't blame P.F. but feels it has become a
rallying point for trouble-makers — so CC should stop
this event or assurances that decisions will be in best
interest of all people.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(7)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: BOB LYLE

Address: 383 MAIN ST.

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Brief Summary of my night's experience during the event - comment about past years. Spent 4 1/2 hours standing on his front porch guarding his property. P.F. out of Control - he would not like to have to hire armed guards to protect his property. Do not go forward up assurances

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

⑧

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

Karen Lyke

Address:

383 Main St

Kelene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

question?

Would like a copy
of the code of conduct?

Is on line - answer

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(9)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

Larry Phillips

Address:

171 Roxbury St

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

A history of alcohol abuse on this + all college campuses
Responsibility + accountability of alcohol related
behavior

This is an opportunity to address the problems of
College drinking on + off campus.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(10)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: CHUCK SIMPSON

Address: MONUMENT RD. DUBLIN NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I would like to comment on the growth of unruly
behavior of young adults after the pumpkin festival
I have volunteered for pick/clean up for the past
4 years.

"We" all need to be responsible!
Think about how best to deal with this problem.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

116

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: John Hayes

Address: 320 Foxbury St., Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Board member of Let It Shine, Inc.

There are solutions to Student Party Riots
as set forth in the U.S. Dept. of Justice's
study on Student Party Riots
KSC drinking problems are at heart of issue.
Tried to engage KSC administration without success.
Students are good people in general.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(12)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Chelsey Lagerberg

Address: 6 Colonial Village Dr
Keene NH 03431

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Moving or canceling the Pumpkin
fest would cause detrimental
changes to our community
P. Festival volunteer - wife of KSL alum - back festival
Quality of life report - read excerpts - enjoy what life
has to offer - PF has huge impact on Quality of life
When do individual acts over-reach + wipe out Q of life?

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

13

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Robert NASS

Address: 184 Old Richmond Rd Sussex

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Non Profit Loss if there is no Pumpkinfest — speaking for
the value of P.F. for non-profits. — supports many programs

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (14)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Daniel Flynn **

Address: 333 Elm Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Keep the Fest. Much was learned.
apply and move forward.

Much personal connection to Fest
A "positive thing." PF should continue Keene
He was there for 1st P.F. + seen it grow.
Wonderful event this year. VideoTape bad behavior

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

****Daniel Flynn comments:**

Keep the Fest. Much was learned.

Apply and move forward.

Much personal connection to Fest and Keene.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(15)

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Nick Tornatore

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I've begun THE SANGHA MEDITATION SESSIONS

Monday/Wednesdays 8:15 3rd floor of GYM

To provide a place for peace that will hopefully spread across campus to bring students together. Students will be taught to tame their minds and de-stress allowing them to act

- over -

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back

out of a calmer mindset.

Not a KSC problem - across the spectrum - let's
use this as a powerful platform to change but don't
stop P.F.

Meditation practice - loves KSC

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

✓ A vast majority of KSC students are incredible,
honest people.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (16)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: ROSE KUNDANIS

Address: 22 Woodbury St.

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I would like to have our community of
alumni provide mentoring and support
for our students.

KSC retired faculty - heard from heartbroken alum - sees
alumni playing an important role

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(17)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Megan Burke Kidder

Address: Home

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Feel KPD did a great job.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(18)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Donald Carl Carle

Address: 197 Water street apt 409

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I would like to ask why the kids do it
longtime resident - Carle Hall fame - teacher background +
KSC Jalum - Asks why? Feels we should ask students
why they are doing this? It's our responsibility - this
word needs to be taken seriously.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ (19)

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: John Hulslander

Address: 28 Lucinda Ter

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

~~Student~~ Student behavior has improved each year for the past five years.

~~5 years ago~~ 5 years ago every weekend the streets around Keene State looked like the Keene Land Fill collection area. That has stopped almost completely.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

Students in apartments have a
noticeable behavior change and
I believe it is because of
efforts by the college.

We have apartments on Water St
in Keene.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. - *maybe*
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Jim Goun *20*

Address: 3 Bergeron Ave

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

* *Economic Benefits*

* *Regional Magazine Event*

* *NA*

Young professionals attracted to area because of events like P.F.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.



I would like to speak tonight. (21)



I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Beth Truman

Address: 116 Ridgewood Ave
Keene, NH 03431

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- Support for let it shine → No more PF

- Just moving Festival will not help.

- Should end.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(22)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: BRADFORD HUTCHINGS

Address: KEENE

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

PUMPKIN FEST 2015?
PUMPKIN FEST 2015? → MAYBE NOT BIGGER, BUT BETTER
THAN EVER; & NO RLOTS THIS YEAR!
THIS IS WHO WE ARE
THIS IS HOW WE DO IT
THIS IS WHAT WE DO
PUMPKIN FEST 2015 YES!

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (23)
- ☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Jessica White

Address: ¹⁵³Eastern Ave Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Stats gathered

Representing Keene Pumpkinfest Move it or Lose it

Move it or lose it!

- Festival too large

- let it shine - Bd will cancel

- not safe

MAIN Street a problem all year long
behavior by KSC students

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (24)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: ANITA CARROLL-WELDON

Address: 199 MAIN STREET KEENE

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

LIVING ON THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND WINCHESTER ST.,
I WANT TO COMMENT ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR I HAVE
WITNESSED AND BRIEFLY ABOUT THE PUMPKIN FEST.

~~WITNESSED~~ Thanks for all efforts to date. Witnessed escalation of rowdy behavior over last years. Many out of control parties all year long. A disaster waiting to happen.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (25)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Dave Lunn

Address: 16 Prescott St

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

resolve

1- how can S.E.K.N.G. help to ~~better~~ the
issue? Will do whatever it takes.

2- make sure that the truly affected
are involved — city Council needs to be sure
SE neighbors are heard.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight. 26

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Daniel McHuliffe

Address: 36 Rolling Ridge Londonderry

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Speak in regards to Pumpkinfest documentary.

He is a KSC student + filmmaker. He wants to uncover the 'why'. He is collaborating with anyone who is willing to share their story.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(27)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Deb Miller

Address: 24 Lynwood Ave Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- support of KSC students + vitality to community
 - comments about lines drawn punitively preceding prior to event
 - lack of coverage of excellent care at crisis
 - permanent residents recognizing value of KSC in community
- Riot handled well.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (28)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Susy Thider (Thielen)

Address: 45 Kelleher St. Leavenworth

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

college/youcon relations, student relations with
community.

Keep pf smaller + not competitive.

Do not retain but if it is, change date + time.

Let's come up with a new idea.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.



☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Tim Zinn (Zinn)

Address: 43 Grove St. Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Pro Pumphreyfest given Keene State's
willingness to change.

Thank you President Heat — too many students not accountable
for their actions — so keep it — & make students more
accountable.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (30)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Kathleen Joyal

Address: 291 Marlboro St Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- ✓ for Pumpkin Festival to Continue.
- ✓ Has College Considered Having a Fall break during pumpkin fest?
- # Raised is important -- too much at stake -- her neighborhood was other events at risk ok this year.
- Lisa Haunted House

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (31)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

Gwen Mitchell

Address:

Wheelock School

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- Neighborhood - transformed drastically - families are gone.
- Community - lost sense of citizenship
- RESPONSIBILITY - KSC students off campus are not taught to respect
- KSC admits too many students
- more social skills needed.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Scott Stone (Scott Stone)

Address: 5 Central Square Apt 705

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I feel this should be the last pumpkin Festival. It is too much for our Police to deal with. It is too violent, and it is too difficult to control. The pumpkin fest went fine, but too many other things got out of hand. It is not safe for families any longer.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ ~~I would like to~~ ^{feel I ought to} speak tonight.

(33)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Ruth Sterling

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Significance to the region can't be
lost lightly. This can be turned around.

~~HSA~~ Aggravation intentional intentional intentional

We Need an AMAZING turn-AROUND.
SWAT Analysis

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: DEMI K.

Address: PARK AVE

(34)

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

She will READ HER

COMMENTS.

Alcohol is a major problem @ KSC

Keep an open mind.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: DEMI K.

Address: PARK AVE, KEENE.

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I was a student here 20 years ago. I saw first-hand
the underbelly of this school. I attended a party where one
student drank 9 beers in under 2 hrs. Not long after the
"KNOCK & TALK" program was instituted.

THE CITY OF KEENE MUST NOT ISSUE ANY PERMITS

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

If there's one predominant issue on KSC campus
it's alcohol consumption.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

Moving Forward my great hope is that
there are people who want to get to the problems
underneath which fueled the riots.

Keep the public updated via our community
resource

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(35)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Cynthia Chase

Address: 110 Arch St #38
Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I think we need to take a
break because:
1) We need to break a behavior pattern
2) The community needs time to process
 w/o pressure
3) College needs time to assess
 set new policy & behavior patterns
A 1-2 year break is a gift of time to

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (37)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Janet Genatt

Address: 39 Windsor Ct Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I do not want the PF cancelled
& will turn in my full comments after
I speak.

Kiwanis Club needs this event to raise \$

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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- ☒ I would like to speak tonight. (38)
☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Darryl Masterson

Address: 44 Willow St Keene, NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I hear people mention that drinking is an issue at the Pumpkinfest.
This is why I suggest the consideration of moving the festival to a location
that doesn't include 20+ locations to purchase alcohol. And that is
what can be found on the forefront of the festival. 20+ locations.

Cancel P.F. or move festival.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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☒ I would like to speak tonight.

(39)

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

John Bernier *Bernier*

Address:

28 Cross Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

✓ will turn in full card after speaking

DRINKING is the biggest problem.

Wants City + College to be better prepared.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

John F. Benu

Address:

28 Cross

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I would like to see the college and city better prepared for any festival ^{that is} held in Keene. They don't wait for something to happen before they act and they keep the people moving so they do not form themselves into

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

large groups where safety is an
issue
college & city police themselves

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

I am sorry.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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I would like to speak tonight.

(40)



I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

Jay KeFork

Address:

12 ROBERTS LN
WINCHESTER NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Community member

Time to start taking Responsibility.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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I would like to speak tonight.

(41)



I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

LARA BRYANT

Address:

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Faculty - Resident - Man bye old

Growing Movement - lawless element - Social
Issues - Safety first.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Patty Little

From: dsmith
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Pumpkin Festival

My name is David. I live in Swanzey and have been a resident of the area for almost 20 years now. My family was at the festival this year and we enjoyed ourselves like usual. Just another day in downtown Keene. Later that night I started receiving messages about the fiasco downtown. We had absolutely NO IDEA anything was taking place 2 to 3 blocks from the festival.

There is no way this will spiral out of control again like this. This was the apex of what started last year. If you let those kids take the Pumpkin Festival away from the families that have supported the community for years, you will have lost not only a great annual event for the Monadnock region, but the respect of the general public. Keep the Pumpkinfest!

- dave

12/8/2014

To the attention of the Pumpkin
Festival forum,

from Charles & Joyce Schofield

16 Greenbriar Rd.

We have participated in all the
festivals to date. Although our
residence is not close to the
area of the "riots", We feel very
strongly that the behavior that
occured at the most recent festival
Portends significant danger to our
citizens and to the visitors to our
city.

We believe very firmly that there
should be no festival in 2015.

We have taken part in our last
Pumpkin festival for the portentous
dangers greatly outweigh any
(brie)

2014

possible good.

Thank you.

Pumpkin festival forum.

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 08 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Judy Russell

Address: 34 Brook St Keene
352-5468

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

The Keene police contained a lot of problems this year
by posting 'no parking' on many east side streets. Kudos
to them.

The Pumpkin Fest has lost enjoyment over the years because
of the off campus parties. We were fortunate that our worst
'neighbors' moved away, but for years we have put up with
noisy, rude, public urinating drunks. Police have been so busy
that they couldn't get to the neighborhoods to put a stop to it.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

So although the down town Fest has been fun, living with college neighbors has not.

KSC allows themselves to be a party school. They build

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

more tax-free housing and push more and more students off campus. By not caring for their students on campus, KSC can claim that the partying problem does not belong to the institution.

Pumpkin Fest has had its' day. The Rec can once again provide the Halloween childrens' costume parade. KSC can grow up and deal more strictly with its' problem children. Time to end Pumpkin Fest.

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 11 2004

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

To The Keene Sentinel:

It would be tragic if a group of irresponsible, drunken students were to force the cancellation of the pumpkin festival.

The festival is a wonderful family celebration and it helps our local merchants and non profit organizations. It draws people from other parts of the country and ~~it~~ is a lovely, celebratory event for our city.

Let's get the cooperation of the majority of the college students and prove that people can change and that we can have a successful, cooperative venture that pleases and delights everyone.

Barbara Hull Richardson

197 Water St.

phone 355-2661

Keene, NH 03431

12/69

This is a copy
of the letter I
sent to the

Keene Sentinel

on 12/5/14

Barbara Hull Richardson
197 Water St. Keene, NH

October 20, 2014

Dr. Anne E. Huot, President
Keene State College
229 Main Street
Keene, NH 03431

Greetings President Huot:

It is unfortunate that the good name of your school and the vast majority of your students have been dragged down by the events and publicity surrounding this year's Keene Pumpkin Festival. Having worked in school settings most of my entire career, I know how difficult it is to change public opinion once something like this occurs.

I would like to offer a suggestion that may mitigate a recurrence of these events. If you could change your school calendar and have Parents' Weekend coincide with the Pumpkin Festival it could serve dual purposes. Many students would leave the area to head home for the weekend. With fewer KSC students on campus, perhaps this would limit the influx of rowdy out-of-town college students coming to Keene bent on partying. Parents of some of the students remaining on campus, particularly those first-year students that tend to push limits, would come to campus. Having parents around could help restrain some of the out of control drinking and deplorable behavior that occurred this weekend.

I certainly hope that the Town-Gown relations can improve and that the Keene Pumpkin Festival can survive this undeserving attention. The region relies on the influx of visitors that the Festival brings each year supporting a great many businesses and non-profit organizations. It would be a real shame to cancel future Keene Pumpkin Festivals.

All the best of luck to you, the students, and the Keene community in overcoming this negative publicity.

Sincerely,



Victoria A. Rank
PO Box 298
Peterborough, NH 03458

Cc: Keene State College Campus Security
Let It Shine, Inc.
Keene City Police Department
Gov. Maggie Hassan
The Keene Sentinel
The Monadnock-Ledger Transcript

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Yvonne M Prince

Address: Somersworth NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I came from Somersworth NH + my daughter from
Worcester MA. Keene is our hometown + we still care!
I hear alot of folks complaining but is ~~that~~ they don't/won't
get involved they can't complain later.

All the best in the outcome!

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 09 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

12-8-14

To whom it may concern

My name is Albert Prime live
at 763 Beech st. I do not believe
Tappayers should be funding any
part of Pumpkin Festival. I think
many charges are not covered by
that Tappayer donation. Police Posters
Notices, Public Works, Playing Jerry Bach's
John's O.T. more than normal
on weekends. We have been
funding this for over 20 years it
is time for this to stop

Defining insanity is doing the
same thing year after year and
expecting a different result

Thank you
Albert Prime

Patty Little

From: Patty Little
Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 7:09 AM
To: Patty Little
Subject: FW:

From: Gloria Perrin
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 9:58 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject:

We should not let any outside force control what we do in Keene. It is never good to give- in to people who do bad things, that gives them control over us.

The Keene police did a great job during the Pumpkin Festival !!!!!

I vote to continue the Pumpkin Festival.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Patricia Pedrosa González

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

What happened with the conversations on Keene as becoming the "most healthy" community - I ask this because when I saw this community initiatives announced almost in each place, and printed publicity - however through the months what I saw are empty buildings - no opportunities to young people to do creative - fun or active activities - and in opposite many many bars who are benefited of KSC students by making business - how could

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

we go back to review how Keene is a healthy community?

Healthy in all senses!

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

the Fest is heavily COST to the city - so don't blame KSC ~~on~~ expensive

something that the city cannot effort anymore.

- learn about what is going on in the entire country - "riots culture" has race too - White Kids can drink and party without consequences - Educate your own white privilege too because sadly some one needs to stop bad behavior ..

December 9, 2014

Can anyone afford the police coverage?

Given this years' experience, has the required level of police protection/the "bar", so-to-speak, for police protection for next year's pumpkin festival, if it happens, to include the off-footprint behavior, been raised and if so can Let it Shine or any other organization that might like to handle such an event be able to afford the total coverage required? As we know, given the off-footprint behavior, there was a total of 232 total police responders/officers from around the state. This number also does not include the New Hampshire State Police helicopter and crew, the already on-duty NHSP troopers stationed at Troop C and not previously assigned to the festival and the NHSP Colonel. There were 109 police officers initially assigned to the festival and non-foot print related matters. I am lead to believe that there will be no charge for the state-wide reinforcements this year, but if 232 officers was the actual required number of police this year and there is every reason to believe that the same behavior will occur next year, and perhaps even worse, is it not true then that next year will require the same number of officers and with an actual accompanying cost? In the end there were 123 additional police called in to quell the behavior. Can that number be afforded for a festival next year?



Frederick B. Parsells

11 McKinley Street

Keene, New Hampshire 034331

352-4345

From: [Mayor Kendall Lane](#)
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: FW: Pumpkin Festival
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 3:00:31 PM

Another response to the forum

-----Original Message-----

From: John Pappalardo
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 12:33 PM
To: Mayor Kendall Lane
Subject: Pumpkin Festival

Dear Mayor Lane,

I am writing to express my disapproval of any proposals supporting the continuation of the Keene Pumpkin Festival. Initially the Keene Pumpkin Festival was a source of community pride and a worthy fundraising activity for local social service agencies. It was attended by local families and was a peaceful and celebratory event. In the last several years it has become something else. Outsiders with little or no ties to the community have turned the event into an excuse to party and create trouble thus tarnishing the reputation of the festival and the community. After twenty four years it is time for Keene to end its support for the Pumpkin Festival. It has become too big and demands more police presence every year. It is no longer the event it once was. It is time for Keene to turn the page on the Pumpkin Festival. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Pappalardo
60 School Street
Keene, NH 03431

Patty Little

From: Patty Little
Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2014 2:57 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: FW: Question Received via Home Page

From: Help Desk
Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 3:20 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Question Received via Home Page

A citizen request has been submitted via the City website. Click one option below to respond.

From: (

Subject: Pumpkin Festival suggestion

Question or Comment: Just a thought. Why not schedule Keene State's Parent Weekend the same as the Pumpkin weekend? Hotel rooms may be tight, but could be done.

Or could a fall event sponsored by the college for the students be held at the fairgrounds?

Thank you for your efforts bringing this to the public for discussion.

Send Email and Log Response (login required): <https://apex.ci.keene.nh.us/apex2/f?p=201:6:::NO::P6 ID:11760>

Email Only: <https://apex.ci.keene.nh.us/apex2/f?p=201:15:::NO::P15 ID:11760>

DEC 12 7/11a

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

We should do all we can to preserve Pumkinfest. Even those who expressed negative feelings at the December 2nd meeting admitted that the blame for the riot was not Pumkinfest's. We need to get into the heads of the rioters, almost all male and alcohol influenced. We can do this by changing their incentives.

-- We may have already done enough through the procedures within the justice system and KSC's enforcement of their Code of Conduct. We had been much more lenient in the past (appropriately) While some think the current actions are mere slaps on the wrist, we are putting the punishment of havoc into the perpetrators' lives.

-- Women are big losers when it comes to the violence associated with alcohol (why prohibition was passed shortly after women got the vote). A conservative estimate is that 25% of women have been victims of sexual assault. Half of these assaults are alcohol related (perpetrator, victim, or both). Google: NIH alcohol and sexual assault.

A good strategy is to educate women on the risks they put themselves into when they attend alcohol-frat parties. If sufficient numbers of women shunned these, there would be less incentive to have them. We want women to be assertive; this is lost in an alcohol infused environment.

-- The college said it was reconsidering its Code of Conduct education program. There should be a required first semester course for freshmen. We need to teach the students (our future leaders) virtue and morals. Our Pumpkinfest experience is a wonderful case study on how the seemingly minor irresponsible behavior of a few can hurt so many others.

-- There was a marijuana legalization debate at KSC. The young people there agreed that had the riot students been stoned instead of drunk, the riots would not have happened. I went to Vermont for a statewide video meeting on marijuana legalization; it will happen soon. It is in New Hampshire's best interest to get on this bandwagon sooner rather than later, so we don't miss out on the economic opportunities from this plant. Marijuana isn't harmless, but has far more upside and less downside than alcohol. To the extent we can substitute marijuana for alcohol, we should

-- The argument that charities can make up the money is false. The money captured by the charities at Pumkinfest comes largely from outsiders (from Keene) and those who typically don't make charity mailing lists. The argument that it might get worse or that there might be a future tragedy is the wrong way to live (through fear) and doesn't address the underlying problem - alcohol induced irresponsibility and violence.

-- I am disappointed that Keene government has not yet provided an official estimate of the economic loss in tax receipts, business revenue (includes compensation to employees) and charity that the people of Keene would lose should Pumkinfest be cancelled. This is the best kind of money for Keene to earn as it comes largely from service (entertainment) to outsiders.

Joseph Mirzoeff 12/12/14 50 Summit Rd Keene 603 354 3076

P.S. Police should wear cameras to increase accountability and the perception that perps will be held accountable.

From: [Patty Little](#)
To: [Michele Chalice](#); [Rhett Lamb](#)
Subject: FW: To Complete my Thoughts
Date: Thursday, December 04, 2014 4:12:43 PM

From: Mayor Kendall Lane
Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2014 4:10 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: FW: To Complete my Thoughts

Here is another one.

Kendall

From: Mitchell, Gwen
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 1:59 PM
To: ahuot@keene.edu; sjones@antioch.edu; Mayor Kendall Lane
Subject: To Complete my Thoughts

Thank you for the opportunity to address the community last night. Unfortunately 2 minutes is an inadequate amount of time to clearly express oneself regarding our concerns.

I did not come to the forum to weigh in on whether or not the Pumpkin Festival should continue. I came to speak on behalf of the Wheelock School community, teachers, parents, and students. We have observed over the years a significant increase in the college houses adjacent to our school. I spoke last night about the off campus students' lack of a sense of community, responsibility, respect and safety. I have had many encounters with our collegiate neighbors requiring me to shut down beer pong games mid-morning, asking to reduce the volume of blasting uncouth rap music which disturbs our students, having young men urinate on a lawn in front of a group of preschoolers, and cleaning up our grounds following unauthorized parties on our campus.

Our relationship with Keene State has been long and rich. Keene State is a good neighbor. I like to think that Wheelock is a good neighbor to Keene State by providing so many opportunities for Keene State students to have pre-service experiences with our teachers and students.

We are tired however, of the disrespect and disregard for our needs and our students' needs which has become so prevalent. Keene State is working hard to rebuild relations with the community. Keene State needs to realize that our youngest and most vulnerable community members were frightened and traumatized by the events just outside their homes. It will take a great deal of work for our students and teachers to regain lost trust. Our students should not have to ask methods students what role they played in the riots. They should see the methods students as just that, students learning to be teachers, role models.

My goal is to be constructive, not critical, so here are some suggestions:

Look at Union College in Schenectady, NY. The college purchased two streets of houses, upgraded safety codes, painted them in college colors, and made them theme houses to which students must apply for residence. Also at Union, students must apply to live off campus, having demonstrated exemplary behavior and grades. Middlebury College owns similar themed houses, and it is a privilege to apply to live there. Keene State and UNH have their housing system upside down, and this affects our neighborhoods. Off-campus living should be seen as a privilege, available only to students who, in the eyes of the college, have demonstrated mature pro-social behavior over a period of several years.

All Keene State students should have ANNUAL training in understanding our community, and the responsibilities of near-adulthood.

Students approved for off campus housing should be expected to keep their properties clean and clear of trash. It is discouraging to walk children on a field trip while almost ankle deep in beer cans. There needs to be a well-known system of reporting these conditions.

Please accept these words in the spirit I intended, one of helpfulness and advocacy, yet with frustration.

Warmly,

Gwen

--

Gwen S. Mitchell, Principal
Wheelock School
24 Adams Street
Keene, NH 03431
603-352-2244

Environmental awareness message
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Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Joan McConnell

Address: 81 Ralston St., Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

A city wide student curfew during Pumpkin Fest
regardless if they live on or off campus.

From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Cc: [Mayor Kendall Lane](#)
Subject: Pumpkin Fest Comments
Date: Thursday, December 11, 2014 11:24:08 AM

To the Mayor and City Council,

I am one who strongly believes that when things go wrong there are always lessons to be learned and opportunities for growth. It is my hope that the city of Keene takes this same approach with their discussions concerning the future of the Pumpkin Fest.

What did we learn?

- Even with the best of intentions the Pumpkin Fest has become a victim of its own success.
- Call it pride, call it ego, but our exuberance in wanting to thrust the Pumpkin Fest into the national spotlight along with our desire to make it "bigger and better than ever" certainly begets the phrase, "Be careful what you ask for".

How do we grow and move forward?

- Take a timeout. A one year hiatus would serve us well. We could all use a break, especially those who reside in the neighborhoods that have been most affected by the vandalism and destruction from the Pumpkin Fest each year. We need to know what it feels like to not have a Pumpkin Fest when October comes around. Will we miss it?
- Re-Purpose the Pumpkin Fest. Downsize it. Stop counting the pumpkins. Return it to its earlier roots when it was a much smaller and more manageable community event.
- Challenge and engage the Keene State College students and administration to become stakeholders in the Pumpkin Fest. The footprint of the Pumpkin Fest should be extended to include the Keene State College campus. The students could sponsor on campus activities such as a carnival or haunted hay ride for the kids, music and arts performances, or a concert to raise money for a worthy cause such as the Make A Wish Foundation or Wounded Warriors Project.

Change is good and it is time for the Pumpkin Fest to change. From the deepest, darkest depths of these discussions a stronger and healthier Keene community shall emerge. Let's get to work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allen Markland
34 Trowbridge Road
Keene, NH

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: RYAN MAHAN

Address: KEENE STATE COLLEGE

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

- WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC ^{IMPACT} ~~GROWTH~~ IN KEENE WHILE SCHOOL IS IN SESSION COMPARED TO OVER THE SUMMER? DO STUDENTS MATTER?
- KEENE STATE STUDENTS NOT ONLY TO BLAME FOR YEAR ROUND PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL DESTRUCTION. COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OF PERMINENT KEENE RESIDENTS WHO THREATEN US STUDENTS, TREAT US AS UNEQUALS AND GET AWAY WITH THIS. KEENE RESIDENTS NEED TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY YEAR ROUND AS WELL, NOT JUST KEENE STATE STUDENTS.
- STUDENTS ARE HERE, STUDENTS ARE HEARTBROKEN AND STUDENTS ARE ACTING. (MORE →)

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

WHAT IS FORGOTTEN OR NOT LOOKED UPON IS THE INVOLVEMENT THESE STUDENTS ARE A PART OF. 135 ORGANIZATIONS FOR A SMALL COLLEGE. I INVITE ANY KEENE RESIDENTS TO WALK AND TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT WHAT KEENE STATE IS DOING AT ANY MOMENT, AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS WILL FLOW. BEFORE COMMENTING, INTERACT AND

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

- RIOTS, DRINKING, DRUG ABUSE, VIOLENT BEHAVIOR -

- THIS IS A NATIONAL ISSUE, NOT A KEENE/KEENE STATE ISSUE.

WE NEED TO STOP TREATING IT AS SUCH.

- TAKE A KEENE POLL TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE REALLY WANT.

BACK AND FORTH CONVERSATION NEEDS A CLOSING ACTION. DO RESIDENTS WANT KEENE, OR NOT?

- KEENE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD PUMPKIN FEST. ARE WE GOING TO QUIT AND SAY WE CAN'T HANDLE IT? NOT STRONG? LET OUTSIDERS LOOK DOWN ON KEENE FOR STEPPING AWAY RATHER THAN BEING PROACTIVE?

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Linda Madden

Address: KSC Mason Library MS 3201

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

The costs of PumpkinFest are outlined in the handout,
but what about the monetary value to vendors?
One quote I've heard is that 40% of their
annual income is made by some vendors.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Patty Little

From: Patty Little
Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 7:08 AM
To: Patty Little
Subject: FW: Question Received via Home Page

From: Help Desk
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 11:02 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Question Received via Home Page

A citizen request has been submitted via the City website. Click one option below to respond.

From:

Subject: Pumpkin Festival

Question or Comment: Keene is my downtown, as I live in Surry but have worked in Keene for over 30 years.

I would like the Pumpkin Festival to downsize and continue after taking a year or two off to figure out a way to hold it safely. I'd like it to go back to being a local event, with only local non-profits selling food on Main St. You can control the number of people who come--to downtown or to the neighborhoods in SE Keene--by controlling the parking lots. Don't bus people in, and don't let people park overnight in the lots--charge for the lots. Require WalMart to monitor their lot.

While it won't solve the problem, don't let stores within a 1/2 mile of campus sell alcohol, any time. We don't have to make it EASY for students to get it.

When Pumpkin Festival resumes, the College should close for the weekend. You'd still have the off campus students, but at least you'd take almost 3000 residential students out of the mix.

Hold landlords responsible for the destructive behavior of their tenants to the neighborhoods. With a year long lease, they are still entitled to get the rent even if they have to evict bad apples.

When there is another Pumpkin Festival, get on the social media sites popular with students and put out positive messages to counteract the "let's party and riot" messages.

Caroll Lothrop

From Terri Lipman, 103 School St, Keene, NH 03431

I would like the Pumpkin Festival to go on as it is. It brings the community together. It teaches our children the value of working together and community involvement. And Keene, which really needs more art culture, needs this event for its artistic value. Carving pumpkins and looking at the interesting designs is an artistic venue.

I understand the dangers of going forward. Shall we let the fear of the Boston Marathon Bombers scare us? Isn't that what they want?

Contrary to what Dan Mitchell thinks, life must go on and we must protect our freedoms and right to live. Staying home because of..... It is time to move forward.

The college has a drinking problem. If they had classes on Fridays, that would be one less day there might be drinking. The college has an image problem. Why do I have to live by the college rules?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terri Lipman".

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 08 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

Patty Little

From: Geraldine Liebert
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 6:45 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Pumpkin Festival

Greetings to all:

The pumpkin festival has become part of the very fabric of life in Keene for better or worse. It is a wonderful event for the young, the old, for families and friends to attend. The sheer number of pumpkins lit is a sight to behold, and people from all over the country come to see it. We have been fortunate to have had this event in Keene.

At this time I have a concern that I have not heard much about - the added cost of police protection for the festival. The costs of police protection is in addition to the amount the City is already donating to the festival organizers. I, daresay, that the police, firemen, SWOT, security, etc may be costing more than the donation of \$50,000 that the City has already given the festival organizers. My question is who is paying for all this added protection? Is it Keene State College, the students who caused the riots, the festival organizers, the vendors, the downtown merchants or the residents of Keene? I suspect it is the residents of Keene. Tax bills are high enough and I would not want to foot the cost for all this extra security protection.

Let those who want the Pumpkin Fest bring into their consciousness the added cost of protecting the community and who will be paying for it. After considering all the ramifications and costs of the festival then make a decision, perhaps by a vote of the residents, before going forward with another one.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Liebert
447 Hurricane Road
Keene, NH

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Jim Levy

Address: Kendall Rd Keene NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I think it is ridiculous how much this community
spends to keep Pumpkin Festival afloat. Its too
much for it to be a sustainable event.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

RECEIVED
CITY OF KEENE

DEC 12 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

12/12/2014

Diane LeBlanc
147 Roxbury St.
Keene, NH 03431

Subject: Why I don't support the Pumpkin Fest in Keene

It's not about the riots of 2014, it's about quality of life in the neighborhoods surrounding downtown on the days leading up to and including the day of the festival every single year. The 2014 riots were a wake-up call to the fact that Pumpkin Fest draws a young, immature, irresponsible crowd to Keene who party, get drunk, act disorderly and/or reckless outside the tight boundary of the festival downtown, disturbing those of us who live in closer proximity to downtown.

I own and live in a home ¼ mile away from Central Square of downtown Keene (not near the college or the 2014 riots) and every year I experience progressive lack of respect and nuisance reckless behavior upon my property by festival attendees. The behavior can include smashing pumpkins on my front walk or front porch, damaging ornamental plants and hedges, public urination and vomiting, blocking my driveway, loud drunken yelling, music and hoopla late into the night, broken glass bottles and more. Those unfortunate to live between downtown and the college seem to experience even more extreme disorderly conduct as highlighted in the 2014 riots.

I would really like those serving in elected positions of this city to take into SERIOUS consideration the effects of this unruly, reckless behavior on Keene city residents and vote NOT to give a permit to continuation of the Pumpkin Festival in downtown Keene. I understand that Monadnock area non-profits and some downtown businesses profit greatly during this fest and that this profit drives the campaign to support the festival. I ask that you consider the TRUE COSTS to the residents, tax payers and voters of Keene. If the city's goal is to support profits of Monadnock area non-profit organizations (what a conundrum) then consider recommending that the festival be moved away from downtown, away from the college and to a more regional area such as Cheshire Fairground.

And one final thought, let's not forget the Jaffrey Fireworks Festival that successfully moved from the Jaffrey Airport to the Cheshire Fairgrounds after bomb threats were made to the city of Jaffrey related to that event. Let's not wait for something worse to happen in Keene than the 2014 riots before we consider how well that venue change worked for Jaffrey.

Please vote no to financially supporting and permitting Pumpking Fest in downtown Keene. Thank you for your consideration.


Diane LeBlanc

Keene Pumpkin Fest Discussion Forum

Chelsey Lagerberg

December 2, 2014

Good evening.

I come to you today not only as a festival volunteer but as a community member. I am a Nebraska transplant, only living in the shadow of Mount Monadnock for the last three years. However, I have quickly grown to love what is offered in this quaint corner of the state.

Festivals are a big part of life in this region, especially in the City of Keene. Take a look at the wall of Applebee's, participate in the leisure of the main street shopping experience or visit the Keene website and you will see nods to these events. New Hampshire is the Live Free or Die state, but I am sure most community members would not permit the behaviors and experiences of October 17th and 18th. As issues are discussed this evening, I think it is important to focus on the main point, loss: losing out on valuable quality of life and feelings of lost freedoms.

Upon researching what quality of life means, I came across a publication titled "Quality of life: its definition and measurement". An excerpt from the abstract reads as such:

A model of quality of life is proposed that integrates objective and subjective indicators, a broad range of life domains, and individual values.... It also allows for objective comparisons to be made between the situations of particular groups and what is normative. Considerable agreement exists that quality of life is multidimensional. (5)

Quality of life is much more complex than simply being healthy or having material items; it means to enjoy what life has to offer. This enjoyment is harnessed and prolonged by the community members with direct correlation to the times they share. So do these festivals have an impact on our quality of life? Would our quality of life diminish with the discarding of these types of events?

I think many would agree that life in Keene, New Hampshire just wouldn't be the same without community driven events. A community driven by subjective thoughts and ideas cannot objectively plan for prolific endings.

Our society provides its members "the right to exercise one's freedoms in any manner one may choose **except** where such act(s) may obstruct or prevent others from exercising their freedoms, put oneself or others in danger, or exceeds a (constitutional) limit" (1). I fear we can easily define the events of those two days as an impediment on the community's' freedoms.

Displays such as the Keene Riots, so eloquently titled through the media, are not unique to Keene. In 1994, the Vancouver Canucks lost in the final game of the Stanley Cup. Tens of thousands of Canadians converged on downtown Vancouver resulting in dozens of broken storefront windows, and up to 200 injuries.(4) In 2013, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. Our neighbor, Massachusetts, encountered the same problem when cars were flipped and fires were started in their streets. (3) This is just two of many examples you will find throughout the country and the world.

As time passes, there are many suggestions to fix the problem. The two most discussed are to move or to cancel the festival in order to alleviate the problem. The first, moving the festival, is the same as changing the location of a wasp nest. The problem will no longer occur in that location, but the likelihood of such events does not diminish. The second, canceling the festival, gets rid of the stick you disturbed the nest with but morphs it into a mouse trap, it is only a matter of time before something sets it off.

Improvement comes through looking at where we want to be, not where we have been. As the publication indicated, objective comparisons should be discussed in relation to the situation of particular groups and work together to create a homeostatic environment of growth and empowerment. No single speaker or organization here tonight will present a singular solution to this issue. Quality of life is multidimensional and so is the solution to tonight's forum. Our community needs strategic planning sessions. Sessions must include individuals from various organizations and programs with one goal in mind: conquer the wasp nest.

A final thought. As issues are raised and concern mounts a key word sticks in my mind, community, "a group of people who have the same interests" (2), "a group linked by a common policy" (2), "a unified body of individuals" (2). You can put any word in front of or behind community: academic community, residential community or even community member. But the running theme is community. **IS** it truly common interest to dismiss and dispose of a major component of our rich culture? To cancel something that has such a big influence on our quality of life? Or is it more important to focus on the inadequate portions of that community that are attacking our freedoms?

Thank you.

Works Cited

- (1) Business Dictionary. (2014). *freedom of choice*. Retrieved December 1, 2014, from BusinessDictionary.com: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/freedom-of-choice.html>
- (2) Merriam-Webster. (2014). *Community*. Retrieved December 1, 2014, from Merriam-Webster: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/community>
- (3) Sheets, C. A. (2013, October 31). *Boston & UMass Riot After Red Sox Win 2013 World Series*. Retrieved December 1, 2014, from International Business Times: <http://www.ibtimes.com/boston-umass-riot-after-red-sox-win-2013-world-series-photos-1448954>
- (4) The Canadian Press. (2011, June 14). *1994 Vancouver riots shadow Stanley Cup final*. Retrieved December 1, 2014, from CTV News Vancouver: <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/1994-vancouver-riots-shadow-stanley-cup-final-1.657030>
- (5) Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities Applied Research Unit, U. o. (1995, January). *Quality of life: its definition and measurement*. Wales, United Kingdom.

Patty Little

From: Richard Kreissle
Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 4:25 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Pumpkin Festival

Sent from Windows Mail
To the city of Keene:

I do not support the continuation of the Pumpkin Festival in light of this year's riots. I also do not support any type of hiatus plan allowing time for the city and the festival's organizers to develop plans to ensure the safety of all participants and to discourage such behaviors that led to this year's events.

I am of the opinion that the festival long ago lost its original sense of being a community event and, as a result of its increasing commercialization, has out grown its footprint. I've spoken with a number of my fellow citizens and the consensus is that the only reason anyone who lives in Keene bothers to go the festival is either because they have (a) relatives from out of town who have never been to it or (b) have little children who are still young enough to take joy out the festival despite the large crowds. To a person, those who I've spoken with do not enjoy the enormous influx of traffic and congestion resulting from attendees of the festival. Many I've spoken to purposely plan trips out of Keene just to avoid the crowds. This clearly does not speak to the festival being a community event.

The consistent size of the crowds over the past few years has placed unwarranted and unnecessary strains on our law enforcement officials. When riotous behavior is added to this mix I believe that the city is increasing those strains and placing law enforcement officials in harm's way. This riotous behavior also places unnecessary strain on first responders and medical personnel/facilities. In short, Keene simply does not have the infrastructure, either in terms of personnel or facilities, to handle a repeat of the behavior demonstrated by participants of the parties associated with Keene State College. With the publicity surrounding last years and especially this year's irresponsible behavior future festivals make the prospect of this behavior increasingly likely and on a grander scale. Whether or not the organizers wish to admit to it, the festival is what draws these partiers to Keene. Without the festival, the students attending KSC would still have their parties but without the prospect riots. And though these typical weekend parties associated with KSC are also irresponsible they are at least somewhat manageable given our current police and emergency personnel resources. The city needs to fully recognize and accept the fact that, with an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students KSC is, in essence, a "city within a city" and, because KSC campus security personnel are not deputized, the responsibility for policing this "city within a city" falls squarely on the should of the Keene police and emergency personnel.

I believe that the only individuals who directly monetarily benefit from the festival are a few downtown merchants. I do not believe that it is moral for the city to continue to support an activity for the benefit of a few select individuals at the expense of the majority. I would contend that economically (as opposed to an accounting perspective) the costs of the festival to the city far outweigh the benefits to the city. There is an economic cost to all citizens of Keene resulting from the increased pollution, both in terms of refuse and air, from the surge of people attending the festival. The support that the city shows for the festival and the impression that the city gives to its citizens, that the city willingly supports the needs of a group of downtown merchants over the safety and well-being of the other citizens of Keene is detrimental to the quality of life to those other citizens. In essence it sends the wrong message. A point has been made that many not-for-profits rely on the festival for fundraising. I much rather see the city take the financial support it has historically given to the festival and distribute it to these not-for-profits in order to make up for the loss of this fundraising opportunity.

Finally, the point has been made that the festival is a source of civic pride. If all that the citizenry of a community can be proud about is the ownership of an arbitrary world's record then that community has larger endemic problems that need to be addressed before it continues to support said festival. As a result of this year's riots I am not proud to be associated with Keene. I am ashamed that the local college has, as part of its name, includes that name of the city I've called home for 37 of my fifty years. As a result of this year's riots we can be assured that Keene will be mentioned in the news for years to come when it involves issues not related to its own festival. As a case in point, shortly before the grand jury verdict in the Ferguson case was announced, CNN had an article titled, "When white people riot". The first couple of paragraphs reminded people of the recent riots. Later in the article there was mentioned other riots at other, nationally known colleges and universities. Again, I do not see this as a source of civic pride and my hope is that the city will make the right decision and withhold support for the festival for 2015 and ad infinitum.

It is time for organizers to pack up the mementoes of the festival into neat boxes and transport them to the Cheshire Historical Society once and for all.

Sincerely,
Richard W. Kreissle
89 Arlington Ave
Keene, NH

Community Forum Speaker Cards

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☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name:

Frank Knight

Address:

*158 High St
KEENE*

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

People are rightly angry about what happened in October. The rioting violated private and public property, greatly disturbed a neighborhood, and embarrassed the community.

We need a solution to the problem, and organization for prevention. Getting rid of the Pumpkin Festival is not the solution.

I am a Keene State alumnus. I witnessed the crazy behavior of some of my classmates for four years. Pumpkinfest was a big party weekend. It was and is a yearly event that everybody knows to invite their friends over, but it was not the reason we partied. It is not the reason people drink and do crazy stuff. If Pumpkinfest did not exist, there would still be parties, there would still be drinking.

What happened in October was the result of a lot of unruly young people drinking and looking for a good time. Getting rid of Pumpkinfest will not get rid of them. To them Pumpkinfest is a weekend. They do not go to the festival and they do not care if it exists or not. If it wasn't this weekend, then it would be another. The students would still organize house parties, parties would still house hop, friends from other areas and other schools would still be invited for a good time. Getting rid of Pumpkinfest would alter the problem, not solve it.

And Pumpkinfest is worth holding on to. The town of Keene is known for it. Families love it. Businesses profit from it. Area non-profits raise money from it and many of them depend on it. It is an event that gathers the community every year, brings Keene together, and if we cancel it, it will only signal that we have let the rioters win – that a group of people behaved badly and Keene was punished for their bad behavior.

Real solutions need to be found. The bad behavior of a group of people, some of them students, but many of them not, reflected poorly on Keene State. As an alumnus who values my degree from Keene State, I have a vested interest in the reputation of my alma mater, as does the city of Keene. The school could look at how it handled big drinking days in the past – St. Patrick's Day was a big drinking day until the school changed the calendar so now it lands during a break. I always loved the musical bands the school brought in, and I think that if there was a big-name concert going on in the gym during the fest many students would buy tickets to it.

Finally, I think that the school should somehow reach out to the students. I think it is the students who showed up the next day to clean up that truly represented the college. And the students who unload the truck full of pumpkins for Pumpkin Lobotomy, and the students who carve pumpkins for the festival. That's the Keene State that I want to prevail. It is the Keene State that perspective parents should see when they type in Keene State into Google Images, not rioters blemishing the school and the community.

I don't know what all the solutions should be, but I know that canceling Pumpkinfest isn't one of them. Thank You.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Coslin Kimball Frank

Address: 104 West St. Keene

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

The college has 5,000+ students but provides housing for only approximately half that number.

The rest must find housing off campus. Inappropriate behavior – loud music & noise, excessive use of alcohol & drugs -- has resulted in deterioration of the housing stock and driven citizens and families away from what were once pleasant neighborhoods of Keene citizens, many with families.

Would it be possible for the city to require notification when a household is expecting a gathering of a certain size [based on number of residents or capacity of the building]. The host/hostess would complete a form with date & times of the gathering & assume responsibility to insure that there was not excessive noise, underage drinking or use of illegal drugs.

If police were alerted by neighbors to the house, they would meet with the host/hostess. Any infringement of the notification would result in cancellation of the gathering & a fine of \$500 charged against the host. Future infringements of agreements would escalate the fine by \$500 per incident. More than 2 or 3 incidents would result in the house being disallowed of sizable gatherings.

Has something like this been considered? If not, could it be?

Megan Burke Kidder
Stearns Road
Keene NH 03431

December 11, 2014

City Council
c/o City Clerk
3 Washington Street
Keene NH 03431

To The City Council:

I have two concerns I'd like to mention about another Pumpkin Festival. The first is whether the Pumpkin Festival has become "an attractive nuisance". An unsavory element was drawn to our community. I do not paint all the Keene State College students with the same brush as this unruly mob, but the festival was used as an excuse to travel to Keene and then cause a riot.

My second concern is what the REAL cost is going to be to the City of Keene and subsequently to the taxpayers. Additionally, what would the City's liability be if the riot had come down Main Street, as I've heard was intended, and people were hurt, or more ghastly, if anyone was killed.

I'm also very concerned that an entry was read on someone's Facebook page that said if you think this was something, wait until next year's blowout.

I would also like to thank our local police forces for the effort they coordinated with many other units around the state and Vermont that kept us, and our beautiful city, safe.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Burke Kidder".

Megan Burke Kidder

From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: Pumpkin Festival feedback
Date: Thursday, December 11, 2014 2:55:56 PM

Hi there,

I spoke at the public forum, but wanted to make sure you got a written copy of what was said.

I'm Kathleen Joyal, and I live at 291 Marlboro Street. I'll be wearing a few hats for this statement.

I am one of the leaders of the United Church of Christ (the big white church at the head of the square) youth group that puts on the Haunted church. During the festival over 2000 people went thru the haunted church. We took in just over \$10,000.00 (with a profit of just under \$8,000.00) The money raised benefits mission work by our senior high youth group. The kids work hard planning the haunted church, and spend all day scaring people. Some of the money we raise is used to help 2 other organizations. We make donations to hundred nights shelter, and let it shine. We've invested thousands of dollars on supplies and equipment. In fact many non profits also have invested thousands of dollars for their materials as well, so losing this fundraiser would affect us greatly. If there is no pumpkin festival, what would we do with all of our materials? You can't really run a haunted church without having the people the pumpkin festival brings in. I would like the festival to continue with perhaps the college having a fall break during the festival. I realize that some kids live off campus and can't be forced to go home on break, however I think taking away the majority of students will greatly deter the others from partying.

I think it's important to note that the riots didn't happen at pumpkin festival, the kids weren't drinking at pumpkin festival. It did not happen in the footprint of the festival. In fact those of us working in the haunted house had no idea this was happening. The pumpkin festival itself was one of the best ones we've had!

As a parent of a college age child, I have been sitting here watching the students here. Unfortunately you are not the ones who caused these riots., but here you are putting forth the effort to help come up with plan to make sure it doesn't happen again. These students should be what we think about when we think of Keene state. Not the drinking and riots.

Now as a resident of Marlboro street this was the first year we did not have to listen to the drunk kids yelling as they go by. It was also the first year we did not have litter or damage to our property. I'm not sure if that's because the police did such a good job containing the students, or if we were just lucky this year.

Thank you,
Kathleen Joyal
291 Marlboro Street
Keene

Sent from my iPhone

451 Park Ave. #15

Keene, N.H. 03431

December 4, 2014

Honorable Kendall Lane, Mayor
90 City of Keene
3 Washington Street
Keene, N.H. 03431

Dear Mayor Lane:

I'm for having the Pumpkin Festival next year. The energy of this group does a great deal for many in our community. The Festival shouldn't be punished for what happened at the KSC area.

I'm for sending all off-campus KSC students home during the Festival if the students want to act in such a violent fashion. We don't want them here. We are very proud of our city and we hope never to be ashamed of our college again!

With respect,

Mary- Ellen Johnson KSC '62 USM '82
M.Ed. Education

12 Dec
I believe Pumpkin Fest
should continue.

The actions of a few
shouldn't spoil it for
the majority, especially
considering many of the
visitors were not KSC
students & may have been
lured here by an outside
party or social media sites.

The majority of KSC students
are decent human beings.

This generation is influenced
by experiences that many of
us not born in the 1990's
have not. Computers, cell

phones & other modern
technology are so

much are part of their
lives. They don't know
what it's like to have a
phone that's plugged into a
jack, to. w/out a remote,
playing outside, talking
face to face to a person &
stead of texting for a few
examples. Thus, so many
don't know how to behave
in certain social situations.

I've attended every Pump.
since it's inception. It's
unique, fun, safe event that
was enjoyed by 1000's eve
yr. It has gotten big, in
some thing could be done -
scale it down? To m
the world record.

no longer important. My
favorite aspect of the Fest
is the incredibly creative
ideas people come up with in
carving prompts !!! It never
ceases to amaze me. I love
watching children experiencing
these amazing sights. It's
also exciting to overhear
comments from those viewing it
for the 1st time. It's as if
someone were viewing the
Ocean, mts or other of the
incredible sights in the world;
a beautiful bird, amazing
wild life, gorgeous sunset.

I fear that if there is
a hiatus, that will
end the Fest forever,

on the premise of "Out
of sight, out of mind."

KSC, the police & others
are making progress in
pursuing many of these
responsible & will conti-
dug so. I believe the thr
of expulsion, jail etc. will
make an impression on many
students, some whose lives
may be ruined by their ac-
tions. Some KSC students
are taking action to put the
selves in good light; i.e. th
R.I.O.T event that was h
last weekend on Central Sq.,

a dinner for 1st respond

to thank them for
keeping them safe

with a presentation of
banners signed by MANT
thanking these people who
did an incredible job that
day. Like many, who were
at Pump Fest that day,
I did not have a clue what
was going on until the news
that night.

I think moving it to
another location would be a
bad idea. As many have
mentioned, it is also a great
boon to the city's economy.

Seriously with all the
parties involved, the Mayor,
Ann Huot, city council,
public, etc. some
solution could

be derived to improve
the behavior of students
so as not to ruin it
for so many that love
this Festival.

I plead, please
don't take away Pump
Festival. It would be
such a shame as others
in Keene have disappeared;
the downtown international
festival, street fairs, chili
cook off. It's only 1 day
a year.

Thank you

Barbara Johnson
170 Gilsum St

355-1314

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DEC 12 2014

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

December 3, 2014

To: Members of City Council

Re: End the Pumpkin Festival

As a homeowner in Keene for the last 7 years as well as being an employee of Keene State College for that amount of time, I believe that it's time to end the festival. It has lived its life. It really can't be said that it is an event for the *Keene Community* any longer when the number of visitors is up to 80,000. Who thinks that it's wise to put that many people in the downtown area? If any kind of emergency occurred, it would be a desperate situation to get the necessary responders into the scene. Some downtown merchants enjoy the added boost to their business, while others don't find it helpful, and still others are forced to close for the day as their customers can't get into town to conduct their business. If the supporters are determined to keep the festival going, then it really should be moved to the Cheshire Fairgrounds in the interest of everyone's safety. Attendees would likely still come into the downtown area to eat at restaurants and use the other businesses. I find it a huge inconvenience and, living on the East side, I can feel the heightened buzz in the air on the Friday and Saturday of the event, nothing to do with the college students.

It's unfair to blame the college for the bad behavior of some of the students. It was hideous and sickening behavior, agreed. Still, the 170 students who have been identified for discipline are not representative of the Keene State College student body as a whole. The college cannot control what students do when they are off campus as with the neighborhoods surrounding the Winchester Street area. There were warnings and admonitions given, but these are young adults living on their own. It isn't for faculty and staff of Keene State to babysit these students in their residences. I do think that the Pumpkin Festival organizers have as much culpability for the disaster as the college does. It is the Let it Shine organization that is responsible for the promotion of the event and encouraging 80,000 visitors to flood the city, choking roadways. This all contributes to the frenetic energy that can be felt in the air that weekend which in turn helped to fuel the energy of the riotous mob.

A question that some of us residents have is what isn't getting done because of the city's expenditure on the Pumpkin Festival or on the days that crews are putting barriers in place and erecting the scaffolding and then restoring things to normal? I'm not in favor of my tax dollars going to the festival, so let's end it now.

Debra Herget
89 Douglass Street
Keene, NH

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CITY OF KEENE

DEC 08 2014

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CITY CLERK

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☒ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Ann Henderson

Address: 16 Grant St

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

As a resident and downtown business owner I am of the mind that what happened was unfortunate but rather an opportunity for exploring some deeper issues. Summary size & philosophy of festival - needs to be more community focused. KSC & community working together to solve issues of health & well being of students

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Daniel Henderson

Address: 22 School St
Hampshire

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I Think The Festival should not go
Forward.

If it is continued, bring in national
guard to offcampus housing areas
to control conduct

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: B. Healy

Address: Harriwille, NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

① As Past President of Keene Kiwanis Club - between our fried dough sales & parking our club raises \$5000+ each year. & we raise supports: 5 youth clubs; scholarships; summer camps; annual Keene Tree Lighting; Teen Room at Keene Rec Center; Kool Wheels bike safety program^{etc.} - all programs for kids & parents in our community.

Asking City Council ^{as it} decides on future of PF - please

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Keep in mind it raised by local nonprofits that would be lost - reducing local support we ^{are able to} provide.

(2) As a community member - ^{huge} thanks to police & EMT's

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

for all their heroism. I believe most KSC students are good & not troublemakers.

Students & community members - we are all people & human beings - I hope we can have "community forums" to keep discussion going to create solutions - recognizing students are students and community members/homeowners have rights too - How can we listen to each other; be civil; & make Keene work for us all. Together we can do this & what we learn from this discussion we can all apply to our lives in general.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: KATHRYN HARPER

Address: 271 MARLBORO ST.
LEONE NH 03431

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

What else could have been done to prevent this years violence?

It seemed that KSC, the City, Police did their best to communicate with students & festival goers and take preventive actions.

Every year the violence escalates — "FinnRage" or not.

Unfortunately - the Pumpkin Festival is a Magnet now for parties, in particular college age parties. It's become ~~the~~ tradition to PARTY/HAVE at Pumpkin Fest.

Why NOT continue the "Fest" for the community, but break the "tradition"

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

of college parties by closing the College & dorms for the weekend?

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

December 6, 2014


Dear Mr. Maclean,

I am writing to have my thoughts included in the discussion regarding the future of Pumpkinfest. In the weeks following the riot my opinion has not changed. I strongly feel Pumpkinfest should not continue. If it were revived in coming years, two as a minimum, a major change would need to occur. I understand the event was not the source of the problem, but the event and the evolution of the college party weekend are inextricably linked. Even without the downtown event next fall, law enforcement, KSC and city officials must work to make sure there is a zero chance of a repeat by the same group of people involved in October's riot.

As a taxpayer I have increasingly resented being required to help fund an event that was begun by downtown merchants to attract shoppers and grew to a need for international attention. It was no longer a fall community event for local children and families strolling around Main Street. Many people, like myself, joke about getting out of town that day because it long ago turned into a mob scene. Whatever decision is made about keeping or ending Pumpkinfest, to me the main requirement would be returning it to an event for the citizens of Keene and surrounding towns. Also, you should not expect property owners to contribute to the costs associated with the event.

Many things in life come into being and ultimately end. I believe Pumpkinfest may be one of those things. I do not recall this level of emotion when Keene no longer held summer "Sidewalk Sales". It also began as a small town event for stores to bring shoppers to Main Street. By the 1980's, however, it had grown into an overblown carnival atmosphere. Somewhere along the line it ended. There appears to be a lesson in both these city events. Bigger is not always (usually always) better! Keene has other community events that are lovely and attended mainly by locals. Unless or until Pumpkinfest can be returned to a community event with no chance of future riots, let it go.

Sincerely,


Nancy Goodell
792C Court St
Keene

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DEC 08 2014

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CITY CLERK

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Marcy Givens

Address: Keene, NH

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Kill Pfest! Tired of the hassle and my taxes
being so high. Its a disaster waiting to happen.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: Comments on the Pumpkin Festival
Date: Friday, December 12, 2014 3:58:57 PM

To Keene officials:

Please consider the following items during your deliberations on the future of the Keene Pumpkin Festival:

ITEM 1 - There is a striking disconnect between statements regarding public safety from Ruth Sterling of Let It Shine Inc. when compared to statements from other people who are likely to know more than she does. Ms. Sterling has stated "I have said repeatedly that the festival footprint is the safest place on earth. And I believe that."

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/organizer-talks-about-pumpkin-festival-her-future-with-it/article_d5a0e37e-896c-5d44-bd29-04ce4bf949b5.html

Ms. Sterling attempts to designate the festival footprint as safe, but let's not forget that the Let It Shine board has stated "...merely blocks away from the festival footprint, our first responders were in danger, protecting us like a human shield, so we could enjoy the day. Residents, surrounding neighborhoods, local and State Police, fire personnel, city workers and property were in potential danger every minute we enjoyed ourselves downtown."

<http://www.keenepumpkinfestival.com/LetitShineOfficialStatement.html> A logical person would ask what might happen if the first responders acting as a human shield were overwhelmed? Has anybody considered flash mobs and the other possibilities of social media?

Swanzy Police Chief Thomas R. DeAngelis apparently considered the possibility of being overwhelmed. He "was one of a handful of officers from his department tasked with trying to keep students away from Main Street and other parts of downtown. "We were sadly outnumbered; our numbers were dwarf in comparison to what we were dealing with," he said of the size of the crowd." "They were completely out of control." DeAngelis said he took part in a briefing with officers from throughout the region Saturday, but nothing truly prepared him for what he encountered on Keene's streets."

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/first-responders-share-stories-from-the-front-lines-of-the/article_f2e9b807-53a4-5c7e-8a63-042d4e9cd654.html The same article states "Taking a beer bottle or the like to the head could be a debilitating injury...And that level of injury is what many who were on the front lines Saturday into Sunday said they feared most. So did the people who were caught in the crowds trying to find a way out, Howard said. "It was alarming to hear the number of people in general that said they feared for their lives." Keene Fire Chief Mark F. Howard said "I can't equate it to anything in my career. There were a number of patients, but fortunately the severity of injuries was relatively minor. That could

have easily been the other way around." State Police Col. Robert Quinn said that he "witnessed firsthand rocks, bottles — full liquor bottles — full cans of beer, billiard balls being thrown at police officers."

ITEM 2 - The Let It Shine board also has stated on the record that "We, the board of Let It Shine, are only interested in producing another event if it is supported by the local community and if it is safe for the families that participate, the surrounding neighborhoods and all of our first responders."

<http://www.keenepumpkinfestival.com/LetitShineOfficialStatement.html>

How safe will a future Pumpkin Festival be for first responders? Let us remember that rioters and students blamed the police for the riots in comments made in the aftermath. Let us remember that the rioters were the targets of rubber bullets, tear gas, and pepper spray. Does anybody imagine that rioters who return to a future Pumpkin Festival will return empty handed? Does anybody imagine that some will return well equipped to do much more damage to first responders?

How safe will a future Pumpkin Festival be for surrounding neighborhoods? Those neighborhoods have borne the brunt of bad behavior for many years, and the trend in recent years is that the behavior is getting worse and larger.

How safe will a future Pumpkin Festival be for those within the festival footprint if rioters impaired with various substances succeed in crashing through to be within the footprint? Professor Len Fleischer of Keene State College has written that "For far too many of our youth, college is seen as a passage to pseudo-adulthood, where "losing your mind" through mindless use of substances is seen as the vehicle to "independence" and "maturity." This is really extended patho-adolescence. The consequences of being unaccountable to community and connection with others can be severe, as we have seen in Keene during Pumpkinfest, and in the endless mass killings around the country enacted by young men." Let us take warning. http://www.sentinel-source.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/it-s-up-to-us-to-engage-youths-by-len/article_a494ede4-ebf5-52cc-9f9b-edc48b63aefe.html

ITEM 3 - If City Council approves a license for a future Pumpkin Festival, it will create great risk and liability. I suggest that the Pumpkin Festival should never again occur.

Thank you for your attention,

Jim Gardner
27 Birch Street

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Ethan Frock

Address: 5 Avalon Pl.

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I am a full custody ~~for~~ single father and would like to
See my 6 year old (Samuel) and 4 year old (Grace) have the
Pleasure to enjoy the Pumpkin Festival; as I have for many
years as a resident of Keene.

Yes, there is r-f-r-f and this year was out of control.
I do not want these "bad apples" to spoil the bunch.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Dan Flieschman

Address: 44 Court Street

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I just came out tonite to see the feelings of what everyone had to say and possibly react to what people say

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

December 10, 2014

To the Keene City Council:

I have been encouraged to forward to you a letter that was published in the Keene Sentinel several weeks ago. As a Keene State College professor, the letter focuses on what we might do to work with alienated and disengaged young people, both at Keene State as well as in the Keene community.

We have a lot of rebuilding work to do in the wake of the riots. Thank you for what you are doing for our community.

Sincerely,



Len Fleischer, Ed.D

Professor of Education

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Keene State College

The letter follows:

Author and cultural seer Michael Meade has written, "If the fires that innately burn inside youths are not intentionally and lovingly added to the hearth of community, they will burn down the structures of culture, just to feel the warmth."

Youth who engaged in anti-social and anti-community acts during Pumpkin Festival weekend need to be made responsible, accountable, suspended, expelled, and prosecuted, as appropriate. But we as a Keene State College community and Monadnock Region community--I would like to think of that as one community--have to do more than that.

We who work or live with youth (that is all of us) must find ways to engage, connect with, mentor, elder, and be in community with them. If not, we will continue to reap the drunken and drugged mayhem of alienated, disengaged, nihilistic youth, who have little or no

DEC 12 2014

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CITY CLERK

connection to genuine community.

The college years, and all the living and learning experiences that might be possible in a truly engaged education, have the potential to be a rite of passage to a healthy and authentic adulthood. For far too many of our youth, college is seen as a passage to pseudo-adulthood, where "losing your mind" through mindless use of substances is seen as the vehicle to "independence" and "maturity."

This is really extended patho-adolescence. The consequences of being unaccountable to community and connection with others can be severe, as we have seen in Keene during Pumpkinfest, and in the endless mass killings around the country enacted by young men.

I attended the community gathering at Keene State after the riots and was both brokenhearted and inspired by the shame, anger, and hope expressed by young people that evening. One thing that came through very clearly was the desire to engage in real dialogue, as well as action, with the larger Keene community.

How about if we got beyond the understandable ! punitive reaction, and found ways to take a "restorative justice" approach--where the perpetrators of violence, as well as the partyers and the bystanders--were expected to engage in accountable dialogue and the making of amends with their victims: the citizens of Keene. This has the potential to awaken youth to their responsibilities as young adults in community, and to feel the genuine and sustainable connection in return.

Last week, a friend in Colorado who heard about what happened in Keene asked me: "where are the elders?" I work every day with these youth, and I see the seed of great possibility in their messy and fragile emerging selves. What I believe they need more than anything else to successfully cross the threshold into genuine adulthood is to be mentored and elderd by us. Each of us. Otherwise, we will reap the whirlwind.

December 5, 2014

City Clerk's Office.

Ruth Sterling. of Let It Shine, stated she would not do the Pumpkin Festival again unless she could guarantee it would be safe. There is your answer. This can not be done by her or anyone else. She made this a public statement. No more Pumpkin Fest unless it will be safe. Even if you move it , the event will bring the riots, it's the way the minds of the young think. Party Time = Pumpkin Fest. The city manager lied to channel 7, "this has never happened before! Let's see, what was going on for Red Sox and last year's pumpkin Fest, did he forget! All you think about is money. Shame on you Ms. Chase, worthwhile event, it is a very dangerous event. I would like to know how much the safety cost us for this event. No one is saying. I went to the meeting at the library, where was Anne Huot? She sends a representative! She has no control and only 2 students were expelled for all this riot and damage. Way too soft on the students. We are in for a lot more problems with her. The week end parties every week. Our police are in danger. They need to go to each party with lights off, not warn the party goers you are coming. Anne Huot needs to pay for the safety bill at the pumpkin Fest and pass the bill on to the students. She should have better papers written up that as a student, if you are involved in riots you pay and are expelled, signed by each student coming in. I would like a return letter of the safety bill for all police, etc. We have a right to know where our money goes. I would also like a tour of the city hall on Marlboro St. What city has two city halls. You did tell us that you, police and fire department were going! At the library meeting no one had the cost of protection at the pumpkin fest? Now you want to spend money to fix up the city hall, money, money, money. Spend, spend, spend.

Sincerely Virginia Espeland 

976 Marlborough Rd

Keene, N. H. 03431

Mailing address P O Box 356

Marlborough, NH 03455

Enclosed returned envelope

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Emily M

Address: 229 Main St, Keene NH

03435-5278

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Keene is not ~~alone~~ alone. Riots are becoming
a trend in the U.S. It is
~~for~~ this generations "coming-of-age"
event. We can be the first to stop
this trend of useless rioting.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

A committee for protection needs to be initiated for next year.

For my English class I am writing an analysis on Pumphrey. I hope to submit this to City Council.

Monthly meetings would benefit greatly!

DEC 12 2014

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CITY CLERK

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Regarding the Keene Pumpkin Festival:

December 11, 2014

Balance. I believe we need balance in our lives.

There is a lot of negativity in the world today. If you watch television, read the newspapers, surf the internet, it's there. Some awful, awful things. You can't escape it. Most of the time, you won't see the positive stories, because those aren't what sells papers.

So we have to create our own positive stories, to balance the negative ones that surround us. And that's what we've done with the Pumpkin Festival. We did that. How many communities can make that claim?

That positivity shines through when you attend the Festival, and see the smiles and excitement on the faces of children and adults alike. And when you see that, you can't help but smile. And on that day, as it's reported on the news, the community, the country, and even the world sees that. And that positivity balances out some of the negativity that we see all too often these days.

The Pumpkin Festival provides positive balance in our lives.

And that's a very, very important thing for us all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Sporborg". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Don Sporborg

8 Sugar Maple Lane

Keene, New Hampshire 03431

From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: Keene Pumpkin Festival
Date: Friday, December 12, 2014 9:19:43 PM

I may have missed the deadline for submitting comments but thought I would send this just in case. I have lived in Keene for almost 9 years and absolutely love the Pumpkin Festival. I think it is a magical event that transforms our city for one day. I would hate to see it go because some college kids made some bad choices.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: John CROTEAU

Address: 111 JORDAN RD

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

You cannot separate the Pumpkin Fest from the riots although some would like to look at it as two different events. If it wasn't for the police, it would have been one event.

The cost of the helicopters and extra police presence should be charged to the state and not have the taxpayer pay for it because we all know that it does have to be paid for.

Keene doesn't need to be the laughing stock of the country and we want anyone hurt or killed so please NO more Pumpkin Fest for me.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Let's keep Reese open and not close off the streets
this year.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

Asking RSC to close for a week-end so the city can
have a fair would be presumptuous at best.

Have the Pumpkin Festival at the Fair Grounds and don't
close downtown Reese anymore

Patty Little

From: Chris Cornell
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 12:14 PM
To: Patty Little
Subject: Pumpkinfest comment

Hello,

I am writing to comment on the current Pumpkinfest discussion. I serve as the Youth Minister at the United Church of Christ in Keene (that one on the head of the square). Each year our "Haunted Church" fundraiser raises thousands of dollars for our program (and for 100Nights this year) and I know that nearly every other Not-For-Profit in the region depends in one way or another on PumpkinFest money for their operations.

Please keep the Pumpkin Festival. Do not let the actions of a few ruin this for everyone. Let's take pumpkinfest back as a community.

Christopher Cornell
United Church of Christ in Keene

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Norma Clark

Address: 17 Colby St.
12-10-14

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Please stop the "Pumpkin Festival" for a lot of reasons.

1) Before someone really gets hurt or killed!

2) The taxpayers of Keene, can not keep paying such a high bill, every year for the festival. Our tax money can be spend

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

over

in a more produced way!
After Twenty-four years, we in Keene
hope & pray that ^{it} is the last!

Thanks

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

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From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: Pumpkin Fest
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 8:12:04 PM

Pumpkin festival has been a part of my life since I was a baby, and I've loved it every year. It's also a great opportunity for my church youth group to participate in a community event and raise money for our community service projects elsewhere in the US, and I would really love for it to continue.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Liz Christian

Address: 229 Main Street

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I truly believe that everyone in the community is responsible for the events that occurred. It would be a mistake and tragedy to forgo the event next year. A man mentioned that more needs to be done about enforcing binge drinking on & off campus. Okay fine. But that means LAW enforcement needs to step up and handle the issues that follow underage and excess drinking. Those that have been

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

arrested and charged w/ crimes from that day
are getting the book thrown at them. It's important
to consider solutions to the problem (excess
drinking) by taking the issue by its ugly horns.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

~~Keene State College~~ = Kinda Sorta College
Keene State College

If we change how students view drinking
on this campus and who it draws (problem
drinkers) then we will move forward from the
Scare Pumpkinfest left on this community.

→ When students consider coming to this school,
this is what they see/hear.

Change that, and we're one step
closer to a solution.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Erin Chase

Address: 229 Main Street

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

I am embarrassed of my fellow students but
do not want Pumpkinfest to end. Give us
another chance

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Any additional comments as the community moves forward?

more opportunities for interaction
between students + residents.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Cassandra Carlom

Address: Tisdale 1, apt. 1
on campus.

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

As unfortunate and disapointing-even frightening-
as the 2014 Pumpkin Fest Activities were, as a
Student, I know firsthand what the backlash
feels like. President Huot is handling this with
grace, and I admire her determination to move
forward. These were not all Keene State Students,
not even half of us. Do not give up on Keene State
College because of our peers' guests.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☐ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Ashley Burns

Address: 229 Main St

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

It is up to us to make Pfest
a safe + enjoyable event for all. If
it cannot be safe we shouldn't have it
again
Thank You.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

The Bridges Inn at Whitcomb House

27 Main Street
Swansey, New Hampshire 03446

603-357-6624



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DEC 16 2014

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CITY CLERK

City of Keene
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431
December 10, 2014

To the Mayor and City Councilors:

I am writing to voice my opinion about the future of the Keene Pumpkin Festival. Simply stated, the Pumpkin Festival has grown too large, has run its course, is no longer a safe family or community event, and should be discontinued permanently.

The drinking, parties, and destruction have escalated over the past few years and we are so fortunate that no deaths, serious injuries or severe property damage resulted from this year's mayhem. The police and other emergency responders did an outstanding job keeping the riots and chaos outside the Pumpkin Festival footprint, preventing a disaster. It is not fair to the local hospital, police departments, and other emergency responders to have to arm themselves for another Pumpkin Festival, let alone neighboring residents. The Pumpkin Festival has become an embarrassment to Keene and the Monadnock Region.

I cannot state my concerns any better than Jim Gardner did in his letter to the Editor, titled "Playing with Fire" which appeared in *The Keene Sentinel* on November 6th. I agree that a responsible community should "stop playing with fire." I do not know how anyone who reads Mr. Gardner's letter could, in good conscience, support the continuation of the Pumpkin Festival.

Discontinuing the Pumpkin Festival will affect the income of many local businesses but my concern is with the loss of fund-raising opportunities for the local non-profit organizations.

Perhaps the people with the time, energy, voices, and passion to continue the Pumpkin Festival can put their efforts into creating an alternative event to help fund the local non-profit organizations. And if another community event should come to fruition, I urge the City of Keene to keep it a *community* event. To try to grow it, get in the Guinness Book of World Records, be on national TV, and to attract tens of thousands of people would not be good for the region. Let's learn from the mistakes.

Over the years, many Bed & Breakfast guests have come to the region for the fun and entertaining Pumpkin Festival. But the Pumpkin Festival has become an embarrassment that has tarnished our region's reputation. I would not feel comfortable endorsing it if it were to continue. Incidentally, we would most likely have a full house the third weekend of October because of the foliage season, so I am not concerned about losing business if the Pumpkin Festival is cancelled.

To risk another Pumpkin Festival would be ludicrous. Why play with fire?

Thank you,

Susan A. Karalekas

Susan A. Karalekas

Swansey resident, home owner, and business owner since 2006
Keene resident and homeowner from 1989 until 2006
Employed at a company in the Optical Ave. area of Keene since 1990
Long-time member of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce

HARRY BOYNTON

I was recruited by Let It Shine in 2011 because of my years of experience in emergency services and emergency radio communications. They asked me to be their representative in the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall during the Festival.

I am not here to defend the Festival. In my opinion the Festival had no connection or responsibility for the lawless acts that took place.

In recent years out of state promoters have staged wild parties in neighborhoods outside the footprint of the festival. People were injured from foolish actions of others at these parties. Emergency personnel put themselves in harm's way to treat them, and many fire and building codes were violated. But they were contained to private property.

This year weeks in advance, an out of state DJ and promoter of wild parties whose purpose is to film wild parties for profit started using social media to lure people to a wild party in Keene on October 18th.

Early afternoon on the 18th a large crowd started to gather in the back yard of a Keene residence ready to party. When the landlord became aware of the party the crowd was removed from the property. As they should have been.

This leaves a large group of people, along with the combination of alcohol and immaturity roaming the streets with no place to party. The mob mentality is setting in as they feel deprived the right for their wild party. They did not come to Keene for the Pumpkin Festival, that's a family event. They came to party.

I commend the police for their professionalism in handling a terrifying situation that does not usually happen in Keene. I also applaud their diligence in continuing to bring lawbreakers to justice weeks after those disgusting acts took place.

I commend the fire and EMS personnel who put themselves in harm's way to treat people who were injured by the foolish acts of others within their own group.

We can't change what happened. We don't know if this will happen again even without a Festival. It could, and has happened after a New England sports team wins a championship. It could happen anytime there is a big event in Keene.

So let's work with this.

The problem this year was a large group, mostly from other places came to party but had no place to do that. Why not provide them a place for their party? How about

the KSC athletic field, or some other location away from residents. Invite the promoters and let them have at it without bothering others. I ride motorcycle and go to Laconia and Americade every year and there are no problems. I have never been to Sturgis but am told they have a big fenced in area where people are allowed to party as they wish without bothering others.

People throughout the country and the world have been made aware of what a nice New England city Keene is. A nice place to send their children to college. A nice place to move to. Maybe to start a business. This is because of the national publicity of the Pumpkin Festival. This year Keene received a black eye on national news due to the lawless acts of others who are not even from here.

Do we want the lawless actions of others dictate what we can or cannot do? Should these actions prevent any future events of any kind here? I hope not. Because if we do we have given in to the lawless.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Tyler T. Bean

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

As a student of Keene State College first I would like to say that I'm truly disgusted and ashamed of the events that transpired during the 2014 Pumpkin Festival and this feeling is shared by all of my peers in the Theatre and Dance department. While I do not wish to excuse those who participated in unlawful activity during the festival and I do not believe that there is any single solution to this extremely ugly situation, if there even is a solution, I do believe that in the moment this situation

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

could have been handled different for a more peaceful resolution. Tear gas and pepperballs have proven themselves to instigate more anger from more people. Effectively what the police accomplished by attacking the crowd is turned an intoxicated people's anger **Any additional comments as the community moves forward?**

towards eachother into a unified anger towards law enforcement. This said, I am not so naive as to believe that left to their own devices the crowd would have simply fired out. I think there needs to be a continuing discussion around not only the communities feeling toward the festival and the events that transpired but ~~and~~ also around the treatment of the events in the moment that they occurred. I would love to continue this discussion so please feel free to contact me at either the email address listed or ~~my~~ by phone at (207) 844-4932. Thank you for your time.

From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: Pumpkin Festival comment
Date: Friday, December 12, 2014 11:05:33 AM
Attachments: [12.12.14 letter to Mayor and City Council-signed.pdf](#)

Attached is a signed version of the letter pasted in below.

Dear Mayor Lane and members of the City Council:

I was unable to attend the Community Forum held to discuss the aftermath of the 2014 Pumpkin Festival but want to express my thoughts to you on this matter.

1. The Pumpkin Festival has outgrown our downtown space and our collective ability to police it and ensure safety for our community. The emphasis on getting bigger and setting records has distorted what was a family-friendly celebration of the autumn in our beautiful region. We should be able to find more productive and creative ways to attract tourists to our region than lit pumpkins.
2. While the mayhem that occurred in October was kept away from the Main Street area, it is impossible to guarantee safety to our citizens in the future. Main Street is a limited access area and if anything violent ever happened, the thousands of people walking around would be in serious danger. When I think of the Boston Marathon bombings and I think of Main Street, I cringe to imagine what would happen if a bomb went off in front of the Colonial during Pumpkin Fest.
3. The Pumpkin Festival has become a magnet for wild parties and rowdy behavior. This has increased steadily and dramatically over the past two years. While the festival is of course not responsible for this, nonetheless our culture promotes drinking and crazy partying as a 'rite of passage' for adolescents transitioning in to adulthood. Moving the location will not change that, as the out-of town 'guests' who came to party didn't care about pumpkins, they came because of the weekend's reputation. They will still come to drink and act crazy if the pumpkins are in Wheelock Park or at the Cheshire Fairgrounds, because there will be a date and an event to attract them.
4. We are on the map now as a place where rowdy parties occur in October, and social media has only magnified the problem. How can we possibly manage and monitor this type of communication, when the reach of the internet and the power of anonymity are so strong? We are in a new era of the power of the media and the ability of a community to monitor this. Welcome to the 21st century.
5. The college and the city cannot promise to keep young adults who want to be rowdy from so-doing. Adolescent behavior and mob psychology are both widely documented phenomenon and all the public service messages and door-to-door visits will not make the difference. We must recognize our inability to effect this kind of change or to enforce this

kind of control over these young people. The suggestion of closing the college doesn't make sense as almost half of KSC students live off campus. The suggestion of telling landlords they have to close their apartments and send the renters away is also outside the realm of possibility, never mind practicality or legality.

6. While the non-profits may make money at their various booths during Pumpkin Fest, we as a community can come up with other ways to provide them opportunities to raise funds. What about bringing back the First Night event that used to happen on New Year's Eve? That was a wonderful community event that was a celebration of community and the arts, and didn't involve setting a record. If 'Let it Shine' wants another event, that would be something to pursue.

7. Do we really have data to support the assumption that the downtown merchants benefit financially? I have heard anecdotally that businesses' property and liability insurance premiums are increasing because of Pumpkin Fest. I have also heard on NHPR and from community members that some businesses close because they don't want the challenge, or that their customers can't get to their location because of the crowds. Shop lifting is a problem, and it is not clear to me that there is unanimity among the business community about the benefits. When you add in the amount of city funds that go to support the planning and the policing of the event, is there really a net benefit?

Based on these points, I strongly believe that Pumpkin Festival has to be cancelled. Even with that, it will take some years before the reputation changes, the parties are eliminated, and we create a new atmosphere in mid-October. But we have to protect our children, our families, our citizens, our reputation, and our infrastructure. As our elected governmental leaders, I urge you to stop funding for the Pumpkin Festival and to cancel it for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Bauer

27 Birch St

Keene NH 03431

--

Dottie Bauer

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care"

-- John Maxwell

From:
To: [Patty Little](#)
Subject: re: Pumpkin Festival feedback
Date: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 3:30:56 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am sharing my thoughts on behalf of the United Church of Christ in Keene's youth group in regards to the Pumpkin Festival. Although the events that occurred down near the Keene State College campus are appalling, frightening, and costly, what is happening on Main Street and in the parking area behind the Colonial Theater are truly positive. There are so many organizations that are poorly funded that use the Pumpkin Festival as their primary fundraiser, including the youth group at our church who do the Haunted Church event. Without this fundraising, our youth would not be able to go on their life changing annual mission trips. And I am sure the other organizations rely on the funds they make to provide wonderful services for a variety of programs that benefit the citizens and youth in this area. I would love to know what the total amount of money that is raised by all the non profits at the Pumpkin Festival is, as I am sure that figure would astound many of the naysayers! I cannot begin to imagine all the work that goes into making this festival happen, and I too do not want to see this years negative impact be repeated, BUT, I am all for keeping the festival going if there is a way to insure the safety for all and their properties. I am always troubled by the few "rotten apples" in every bushel that spoil it for everyone else. Our world seems to be constantly bowing down to the small numbers of instigators versus serving the majority.

Thanks for reading,

Becky Barrett
Surry, NH

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

1. I hope that whatever the result, more children & family activities ~~will be~~ smaller & more numerous festivals.

2. First Night was awesome. We now go all the way to Northampton to experience it. It's a shame our family has to travel so far & spend our money elsewhere instead of locally.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐

I would like to speak tonight.

☒

I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Have there been any thoughts about having an on campus event for pumpkinfest? Considered to a point, hark, festival atmosphere.

Other colleges embrace on campus events like those such as Connecticut College's Floralica.

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Community Forum Speaker Cards

Please fill out this comment card and return to a staff member. The moderator will invite speakers up to comment in the order that cards are received.

☐ I would like to speak tonight.

☒ I would like to submit written comment only.

Name: Sam Anderson

Address: Student

Summary of the comments you'd like to make tonight:

Temporary action

- distributed visitors during p-test
- no p-test
- full break

Don't solve underlying issue of drinking and lack of responsibility

- students not inherently part of the community
- don't feel responsible to the town, etc. without community action
- few community ambassadors
- other comment however lessens the feeling of community

Space for additional comment has been provided on the back.

Sam Anderson comments:

Temporary action:

- Don't allow visitors during p-fest
- No p-fest
- fall break

Doesn't solve underlying issue of drinking and lack of responsibility.

- Students not inherently part of the community
- Don't feel responsible to the town, not without conscious action
- Few community ambassadors
- Off campus housing lessens the feelings of community