



JUST ASKING

BY MARY KLEST

How Barrington's Independence Day parade organized?

I asked Melissa Bingham, chairwoman of the parade committee and an event planning professional.

Each year, when the bands start playing and flags gripped by tiny or veined hands start waving, anticipation builds. People dressed in shorts and T-shirts line the streets to salute soldiers, pick out their favorite float, or point to a loved one. It's our hometown marching down Main Street. But how do they know where to position themselves?

"The veterans always lead the parade. Elected officials are next and then we blend the rest for entertainment value," said Bingham. This is her second year as volunteer chairwoman of the parade committee. The event begins at Barrington High School at 10 a.m. on July 3 and lasts about an hour, ending near the train station. That hour is a highlight of summer for many. It requires planning and Bingham has done her research.

Bingham recruited other volunteers to form a strong foundation of support for the annual parade. She divided responsibilities into subcommittees including entertainment, floats, volunteers, veterans, judging, essay contest, food drive, marketing, and logistics. Tying all

of these together is this year's parade theme, "Spirit of Caring."

Students from third grade to high school can express their thoughts through the essay contest. Winners are recognized as contributing community members. To demonstrate a "Spirit of Caring," participants and observers are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Cuba Township food pantry.

When Bingham and her family moved to Barrington from Indianapolis two years ago, one of the first events they attended was the Independence Day parade. She loves to plan outdoor events so was immediately drawn to it. She also recognized what kind of town Barrington is. "It had such a hometown feel to it. I think everyone has their favorite part of the parade. It could be seeing a familiar organization, or hearing the bands, or reaching for candy. I like when they first step off at the beginning. What I don't ever want to change is the hometown feel of it."

Anyone wishing to participate in or sponsor the parade can submit an application and pay fees online at www.barringtonparade.org. Policies on height and size of floats and other answers may be found there. From hometown dancers to Scouts, from cars to horses, all are welcome.



Multi-generations make music during the annual Independence Day parade.

Free Consultation and Color Design

CALL TODAY!

888-SOS-LAWN

BRICK PATIO REPAIR AND SEALING

***Landscapes**
***Brick Patios**
***Maintenance**

Certified Designers on Staff
Financing Available

Detail Center & Hand Car Wash

Professional Detailing Services

- Finest Materials & Products
- Careful & Consistent Workmanship
- Extensive Experience With Exotic, Classic & Black Automobiles

"For a car that looks, smells & feels like new."

Since 1985

847.304.4333

www.autoimageinc.com

417 West Main Street • Barrington