

Festival of Trees at Pelham Town Hall



Staff photos by Marc Ayotte

A view of all the Christmas trees donated and decorated by area businesses and individuals to help support the third annual Southern New Hampshire Festival of Trees in Pelham

by Marc Ayotte

The Pelham Community Spirit recently sponsored their third annual Southern New Hampshire Festival of Trees at Sherburne Hall in Pelham. There is still time to get out to the Town Hall and take in the beautiful assortment of festively decorated Christmas trees, as the festival runs through December 3, ending at 5 p.m. You owe it to yourself to take a break from the hectic holiday pace and enjoy a visit to the exhibit of cleverly and creatively decorated trees.

According to Mark Jedraszek, who is the President of the nonprofit organization - Pelham Community Spirit Inc. this year's festival features 48 Christmas trees, three wreaths and one deliciously looking, special exhibit of the classic and seasonal

ginger bread house. The trees are decorated and donated by businesses and individuals from surrounding communities and reflect a wide range of personalities and themes, and will be raffled off at the conclusion of the festival. Visitors to the festival can purchase a set of 30 raffle tickets for \$5 and enter the drawing for their favorite tree; each decorated tree and presents under that tree will be going home to one lucky winner (per tree) while all the proceeds will benefit the Pelham Community Spirit organization. As Jedraszek pointed out, "the proceeds are used to support the Concerts on the Village Green, the Fourth of July celebration and various community services including the Pelham Food Pantry." The Spirit

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Not "forgetting" the meaning of Christmas, brothers Jack and Cole Garcia (right) stand by the elephant theme Christmas tree sponsored by Valerie Lincoln and Hamor Hollow/Kelly Sosik-Hamor



Pelham Community Spirit members standing left to right: Donna Roche, Diane Morrisette, Mark Jedraszek. Seated: Charlene Takesian, Laurie Hogan and Brenda Eaves. Missing from photo: Cindy Ronning

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Committee operates exclusively as a volunteer entity and is always looking for volunteer help.

The committee awarded blue ribbons for four standard size trees, one mini size tree as well as for one wreath-all of which will be raffled off as well. Awards were given to the most creative, most beautiful and most traditional along with a special committee's choice selection. One of the more interesting entries was a tree donated by the Pelham High School National Technical Honor Society (see photo). According to the group's advisor, Cyndi Fournier, who is in her eight year as a teacher at Pelham High School, her honor students wanted to undertake a community service project.

Photo on right: Entitled "Recycled Spirit," this entry by the Pelham High School National Technical Honor Society was comprised exclusively of recycled materials and received a blue ribbon for 'most creative'

Faced with a zero dollar budget and wanting the project to reflect a school spirit, the group decided on constructing and decorating a Christmas tree made exclusively from recycled materials. With the assistance of the school's student ambassador group, the tree was designed and decorated using items such as grocery bags, paper towel rolls, bottle caps and old hangers. The tree trunk was made using an old fabric roll while old light bulbs festively painted, disguised themselves as the tree ornaments. The tree was literally topped off with an Angel that was comprised of an empty windshield washer fluid bottle and a broken Barbie doll, who otherwise would have just been lying around for the holidays!

