



THE REAL DEAL

Hanover Center Old Timers Fair

Eighty-five years ago, in 1939, the Hanover Center Fair was born thanks to the efforts of volunteers in the town. The harvest season event featured horse-pulling competitions; crop, quilt, and farm animal displays; corn husking; and baked beans. World War II put an end to the fair. That changed in 1961 when the idea was floated of a fair to raise money for the First Congregational Church of Hanover Center. The renewed event was named the Hanover Center Old Timers Fair to honor the past volunteers, and the event became a popular annual attraction. COVID interrupted the annual event, but it returned last year and the community tradition continues in 2024 on Saturday, June 29.





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around & about

The fair takes place on the Common in front of the church, a beautiful gathering place for a wide variety of activities ranging from games for kids, a white elephant treasures sale, a book sale, a bake sale, hamburgers and hot dogs and other goodies for lunch, a chicken barbecue supper, and live evening entertainment. A highlight of the day is the ox pull at noon, featuring three or four weight classes with three to four teams in each class.

Local artist Brooks Hubbard, a singer, songwriter, and entertainer based in Lebanon, New Hampshire, will perform in the evening. He is a national touring independent artist and has recorded for members of Jackson Browne's and James Taylor's bands and opened for performers such as KT Tunstall.

"In the old days, this was the earliest fair in the Upper Valley and one of the biggest and most attended because of the ox pull and parade," says Shaun O'Keefe, co-chair of the event. "People come from all over New Hampshire and Vermont and they look forward to it every year."

The Hanover Center Old Timers Fair is a fundraiser for the maintenance of the historic church building. For more information, visit Hanover Center Old Timers Fair on Facebook. *



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