

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CRUISIN' ON MAIN STREET

**Manchester, CT** Cruisin' on Main Street is back! After a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic Cruisin' will return to Downtown Manchester on **Sunday, August 1 (rain dates August 8 and August 15) from 10am to 3pm.**

Cruisin' 2021 is especially significant to organizers as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cruisin' was deferred due to COVID. "We are so happy to be able to celebrate this milestone." says Cruisin Chair, Ed Firestone.

Cruisin' is a one-day cruise and show for antique and classic cars, trucks, sports cars and street rods **1987 and prior**. An almost one-mile portion of Main Street in Downtown Manchester closes to create a plaza-like viewing area where spectators can stroll, view, and swap memories of our shared automotive history.

**Show cars can begin to arrive at 8am.** A map showing registration entrances can be found at [www.cruisinonmainstreet.org](http://www.cruisinonmainstreet.org) Show car registration is \$10. The first 600 registrants receive a commemorative dash plaque. **The show opens to the public at 10am** with FREE spectator admission.

Beautiful vintage vehicles, food, music and fun all come together at Cruisin'. A taste of special activities offered at Cruisin' 2021 includes:

- **Meet Miss Connecticut** - Appearance by Miss Connecticut 2021, Sapna Raghavan.
  
- **For the Kids**
  - **A Hot Wheels Race Competition** hosted by the Gear Head Mafia Car Club. Kids are given Hot Wheels Cars that they race on a specially designed track with medals awarded.
  
  - **Silver City Quarter Midget Club Display** – Display of Quarter Midget Race Cars and info on the Silver City Quarter Midget Club. Quarter Midget racing is a form of automobile racing for children ages 5-16. The cars are approximately one-quarter the size of a full midget car. The club is a real family affair with parents as the biggest fans AND a part of the racing team.
  
- **A Glimpse of the Future** – The East Catholic High School Robotics Team, Aetos Dios, will demonstrate their robotics project.
  
- **View an Artifact from Manchester's Education History** – The Manchester Historical

Society will display a “waiting” bench that sat outside of the office of Principal Elisabeth Bennet during her tenure at Barnard School, which began in 1917. There is lively discussion rather this was a “nice or naughty” bench or just a place to sit and wait. The Historical Society is displaying the bench at Cruisin’ to help raise awareness of an initiative by the Manchester Sculpture Project to install a life-size bronze sculpture of Miss Bennet in front of Bennet Academy. You are invited to visit the Society’s booth in front of Bennet Academy and share any family reminiscence with the Society volunteers.

- **Staycation Art Exhibit** – WORK\_SPACE, the Town of Manchester Working and Meeting Center at 903 Main Street, will feature an art exhibit showcasing the joys and discoveries of being tourists in our own home and hometowns. Exhibit runs Aug. 1 thru Sept. 24. [galleries@WorkSpacemanchester.com](mailto:galleries@WorkSpacemanchester.com)
- **The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile will be at Cruisin’** – View this 27 ft. long hot dog on wheels for fun photo ops and a chance to get-up close to an American icon! Look for it on the corner of Main and park Streets.
- **Live Music** – Enjoy the sounds of The North East Surf Music Alliance and the Americana folk band, MARMO along with 102.9 The Whale and personality, Rob Ray, will spin music from the “golden era” of Cruisin’.
- **Great food** has always been a part of Cruisin’ from the many individually owned food and beverage establishments that call Downtown home to the special vendors that add to the variety of delicious choices that Cruisin’ offers.
- **Informative Displays** by Cruisin’ Sponsors provide an opportunity to learn about products and services from knowledgeable local businesses. Cruisin’ would not be possible without the support of our sponsors.
- **Sponsor’s Choice Trophy Awards** that take place at 2pm are anxiously anticipated by Show Car owners and spectators alike.

### **Keeping the Cruisin’ Spirit Alive**

The Cruisin’ spirit need not end when the last show car pulls away. Cruisin’ attendees and fans can take home a special memory of Cruisin’ by purchasing a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruisin’ on Main Street Baseball Cap or limited-edition T-shirt.

### **Giving Back**

From its earliest days the Cruisin’ Committee has made giving back to the community a priority. donating over \$177,000 to local not for profits, civic and service groups. In addition, a special annual scholarship in memory of Cruisin’ Committee Member, John “Randy” Thrall was established in 2014. The Cruisin’ Committee looks forward to continuing this tradition.

This year Cruisin' created a **Friends of Cruisin'** donation opportunity for those who wish to support Cruisin'. Monies raised through the campaign will go to MARC Inc. of Manchester after expenses are met.

#### **How to get to Cruisin' and Where to Park**

Getting to Cruisin' is easy. Take I84 to I384 to Exit 3 to Downtown Manchester. Or, approach Main Street vis US Routes 6 & 44. Follow the signs for show car entry or spectator parking.

**Handicapped Accessible Parking** is located in the enclosed in the parking lot at the rear of Webster Bank on the corner of Main and Maple Streets

#### **Inclement Weather Postponement Info**

In the event of inclement weather postponement info will be broadcast by 6PM on the day before the event on 102.9FM The Whale and posted on the Cruisin' website at [www.cruisinonmainstreet.org](http://www.cruisinonmainstreet.org) and on the Cruisin' on Main Street Facebook page. Rain dates are August 8 and August 15.

#### **For More Information**

Find Cruisin' on Main Street on Facebook and Instagram or visit [www.cruisinonmzainstreet.org](http://www.cruisinonmzainstreet.org)

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As of 7-19-21