

Highlights of the Hometown Celebration held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009

7 a.m. – A sleepy group of people meet at Village Hall to set up for the 5K Fun Run/Walk. Organizer **Annette Hahn Kirts and daughter Bridget** are well prepared; everyone who registered early has a tee shirt. We spread the labeled shirts out on tables and wait for the onslaught. By 7:30 a.m. people in running clothes are starting to gather. Some buy coffee from the **Gas Station** or the **Hideout** (who started serving biscuits and gravy at 7). Others stretch and look athletic. People gather in small groups to talk.

SEE PICTURES BELOW.





8 a.m. sharp, **Mike Hartrich**, retired NCHS athletic director and Foundation Board member, shoots off a starting gun to get everyone's attention. About 125 people gather for the start. "You're going to run on practically every street in town," Mike announces, "and if you get lost, just walk a block or two in any direction, and you will be back on track." Everyone laughs. Mike fires off the gun again, and they're off. Four of us go for biscuits and gravy. No point in wearing ourselves out so early in the day.





8:30 a.m. The fire house is open, and people start gathering to marvel at the Wedding Picture Exhibit prepared by **Annette Reis Lynch**. All day long, people come and go – some come back two or three times, because it takes a while to view 150 pictures. And there's always something you missed.





11 a.m. The artists arrive to set up their exhibits. **Deb Ritz Reich, Helen Keller Graham, the Hartrich family artists (including Liz, Phyllis, Maverich Goss, and Megan Thacker), and Cindy Sheridan Carlson.** What an array of gorgeous art they all bring!



11:30 The **Hideout** starts serving the buffet lunch. Yum. We're eating agai



2 p.m. The siren wails on the Fire District's yellow pick-up, leading a gala parade with **Mary Hartrich** featured as the Parade Marshall, and all her children proudly marching behind Mary's "coach" (well, okay, it was a golf cart but beautifully decorated!). We were treated to decorated bikes, wagons, carts, floats and a plethora of politicians who pleased the crowd with buckets of thrown candy.





The Dorothy Hahn Family Float with live tree and theme: "Deeply Rooted in Ste. Marie"



3 p.m. It starts to drizzle and people spend time inside looking at the wedding picture display or watch historical videos in the Village Board Room.

4 p.m. **Ron Kirts** and his sister **Joan Kirts Heneberry PA**, host an open house at the Foundation House, their childhood home. People are amazed at the improvements made during the past year.

Ron and Joan





6 p.m. The event committee breathes a sigh of relief – despite the afternoon rain, all is well. Another successful reunion. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

*Annette Kirts (l) and daughter
Bridget Randolph (r) give proceeds
of the (\$790) Fun Run to Foundation
President Pat Reis and Treasurer
Maxine Calvert.*

