

The New Haven Register (nhregister.com), Serving New Haven, CT

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1st West Haven Allingtown festival to show off section Saturday

Friday, October 29, 2010

By Amanda Pinto, Register Staff
apinto@newhavenregister.com

WEST HAVEN — For years, Allingtown business owner Donato Cappetta has wanted to bring a festival to the section of the city he feels is “a little bit forgotten.”

When the Police Department sent community resource officers to the area for the first time this spring, Cappetta saw his opportunity, and worked with the officers and other business owners to bring the first Allingtown International Food & Fun Festival to the Allingtown Green, which will be held Saturday.

“You never hear good things about Allingtown, and now this is going to be one great thing,” Cappetta, who owns Cappetta’s Italian Imports, said of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association-sponsored festival. “We’re going to keep it up; it’s going to be the first of many.”

For Community Resource Officers Radames Gonce and David Perez, who were sent to the area to curb crime and develop better relationships with community members, the festival provides a great first step toward that goal, Gonce said.

The festival, which will be held 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., will include the University of New Haven dance team, Mexican dancers and a karate demonstration. There will be a performance from The Signature Band, and a pizza-eating contest when the fire and police departments will face off for charity.

Kids can enjoy attractions such as a moon bounce, face painting, and a haunted house, and vendors will be available selling everything from Indian to Colombian cuisine.

Entrance and entertainment are free, but there will be a charge for the food and some of the crafts. Free parking will be available at Quigley Stadium, and there will be a shuttle bus to the Green, Cappetta said.

Members of the West Haven Historical Society will distribute information about Allingtown’s monument to British Adjutant William Campbell, for whom Campbell Avenue is named.

The event will also be an opportunity for business owners like Ginger Fowler, who owns Farricelli’s Flowers by Ginger, to show the community that they are under new ownership and have thriving businesses, Fowler said.

Gonce hopes it will make people realize that nearby West River Memorial Park has been cleaned up after years of

pollution by people in a tent compound, and is a good destination for nature lovers. The park is maintained by New Haven, but located off of West Haven's Marginal Drive.

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