

Watchwords by Officer Tom Hanshaw
September 21, 2012

It seems as though there's always something happening in Amesbury. Whether a youth sporting event, art festival, holiday fair or festival; you can always find something to do. Hopefully by now you have been able to catch the Amesbury episode of "Chronicle," recently aired on Channel 5. If you haven't seen the show yet, certainly make an effort; it's well worth the search. The show featured a sampling of Amesbury life; past and present and much of which we take for granted since we see it each day. Residents are still buzzing about it, so check it out on the Amesbury Chamber web site.

Speaking about "buzzing," we've got an even bigger event happening on Friday September 28th, which you do not want to miss. How often do you have the opportunity to showcase your City, help find missing children, see a Hollywood production and even appear in a movie produced by Universal Studios? My guess is, not very often but if you happen to be in Market Square next Friday morning, you will. Thanks to the efforts of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and several community sponsors, the Fireball Run-Northern Exposure will be making a stop in our City. Amesbury is a "secret stop" in the 2500 mile, 8-day trip from Ohio to Maine. Since a certain amount of planning is necessary, we received a heads-up to prepare for the excitement.

Forty teams, featuring several celebrities, will compete in this year's Fireball Run and downtown Amesbury is guaranteed to be hopping while the producers and participants are here. It's the Cannonball Run meets the Amazing Race and everyone is invited to be in Market Square around 11:30 AM to welcome Universal Studios to Amesbury. Who knows, you could find yourself in a motion picture! This is the first time in the six year history of The Fireball Run, that there will be a stop in Massachusetts. Highlights of past Runs are available online at www.fireballrun.tv so check it out. Amesbury alumni and actor, Jeffrey Donovan was actually the 2007 winner of the inaugural Fireball Run.

I am excited to announce the Amesbury Police Department will be part of the event as well. The primary focus of the Fireball Run is to "find America's missing children." In fact, the program has helped to locate 38 missing children during the six year history. Promoting community safety, especially with children, has long been a priority of the department, so we will be working with the Molly Bish Center and Anna Maria College to provide safety information and free child id kits during the Fireball Run. We will have a large area set up in the Millyard, just inside the Gateway from Market Square. "The Molly Bish Center at Anna Maria College was established in 2004 through a collaboration with John and Magi Bish, parents of Molly Bish, a sixteen year-old Warren resident, who was abducted from her lifeguard post in 2000. The agonizing search for Molly came to an end in 2003 when her remains were found in Palmer, MA, only five miles from her home and from where she was abducted," according to their web site.

This is another opportunity to showcase the City of Amesbury, in hopes of attracting tourists, shoppers, new residents, businesses and guests. Special thanks should be given to Melissa LaChance and Karla Middler at the Chamber of Commerce, as they have done an

incredible job of organizing the event, recruiting volunteers, gathering sponsors, working out logistics and making this thing happen. So show the community your support and become a part of the 2012 Fireball Run-Northern Exposure on Friday September 28th, between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM; help to assure Amesbury makes it to the “big screen.”