

## **For Immediate Release**

### **RE: Upper Union Street BID Plans Third Annual Strawberry Fest & Art Show – June 20**

**SCHENECTADY, NY 6-2-2609** --- Tying into the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Schenectady County and the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Exploration of Henry Hudson, Schenectady's Upper Union Street BID is set to celebrate at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Strawberry Fest & Art Show on Saturday, June 20 from 10am – 3pm. Activities up and down Union Street from Lakewood Ave. to the Niskayuna border at Palmer will include the BID's Farmers' Market, a Gourmet Marketplace, a Festival Area near Ricciardi's Deli and an expanded Art Show.

Tributes to the historic and Dutch themes will include an exhibit of historic photography of the Upper Union Street area, a "Meet & Greet" with a strolling "Henry Hudson" from 12 – 2pm, an opportunity to learn a Dutch folk dance and hear Dutch traditional music with Home Spun Occasions, Dutch desserts and a film about travel to Dutch Holland at Empress Travel and a special historic photo exhibit "The Way We Were" at Sow's Ear Studio.

Visitors can expect entertainment for all, including Fiddlers Tour, Douglas Chilton and Kevin Green performing classics from Sinatra and Dean Martin on the patio under the tent from 11 am to 2 pm. at **Scotti's Pizzeria & Restaurant**, "rootsy" acoustic blue grass music by Flood Road at **Home Style Pizza** from 12-2pm, the pop band "Time Benders" from 11:30 to 12:30 at Salamack's and Acoustic favorites with Mike Jessup at Gershon's. Caricaturist Phil Singer will be at Trustco Bank.

Activities for children include pony rides (\$3 to benefit the Upper Union St. Scholarship Fund) and a mini petting Zoo of baby farm animals on Keyes Ave., a bead craft activity by Scotia Glenville Children's Museum, activities by Paige School students, a craft table with Park Avenue Nursery School, and paper making by Nanette Miranda at Sow's Ear Studio. Incredible Larry, a well known performing artist, will entertain. A special highlight is a talent show for ages 8-16 with a cash prize at Salamack's from 1-3pm. Registration is \$5.

Even pets and their people can enjoy Strawberry Fest with strawberry treats at Upper Union Street's newest business, Head to Tail (next to Domani Spa). Head to Tail will also offer two hours of doggy day care for \$5 with dated proof of purchase from an Upper Union Street business that day.

Strawberries, herbs, bedding plants and seasonal produce and agricultural products will be available at the Farmers' Market. Many of Upper Union Street's score of restaurants will feature strawberries on the menu including shortcake, daiquiris, chocolate covered strawberries by the Chocolate Gekko, gelato and more.

The Art Show will feature more than a score of local artists specializing in painting, photography and more including Upper Union Street's own cadre of artists: decorative painter Rosemary Prock at Sow's Ear Studio. Sow's Ear is a studio featuring a half dozen other women artisans including fabric artist Colleen Guzzo, paper maker Nanette Miranda, painter Fran Giordano, fabric art by Lori Lupe Pelish, polymer bead artist Lauren Prock and hand made candles from Lisa Forkas of Adirondack Lights. For

Strawberry Fest, Sandra Wells will be exhibiting and selling her own photography and Theresa Crane will have her own greeting card line, both at Wells Physical Therapy. Lisa Lambert will feature a line of hand painted clothing at Salamack's, and the Wednesday Quilters will have hand make crocheted and fabric items for sale near Michael's Shoe Service.

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