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Hundreds attend 'Wilton Go Green Festival' Sunday

Posted on 05/02/2010

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By KARA O'CONNOR

Villager Staff Writer

WILTON -- Fun. Education. Entertainment. Whatever the reason, hundreds of Wilton residents decided to go green on Sunday for the first "Wilton Go Green Festival."

According to Becky Bunnell, co-chairman of the Go Green Festival, after months of hard work, the festival turned out great.

"Everyone is having a blast," said Bunnell. "And the turnout is terrific. We figured that around 400 people would come to the event and at least 500 have come so far. It's wonderful."

Jana Bertkau, also co-chairman of the Go Green Festival, said that she was extremely pleased with the Go Green Festival.

"This is amazing. It really is better than I could have ever hoped for," said Bertkau. "The music is playing, people are attending all of the exhibits, the weather is beautiful. It's just a fun, happy day all around."

According to Bertkau, the festival had 80 exhibits, which included 10 community-related exhibits, 30 nonprofit-driven exhibits and 40 vendor-promoted exhibits. Bertkau said that even though all of the exhibits were very different, they all had one thing in common -- education.

"All of the exhibits are educational in some way," said Bertkau. "We



[Kayla Heber, 7, of Girl Scout Troop 310 demonstrates the uses and strengths of "green" cleaning products at the Wilton Go Green Festival Sunday afternoon. DAVID ESPOSITO / Hour photo](#)

the festival, and it seems like the exhibits are doing just that."

Middlebrook student and Little People Big Changes member Jordan Reichgut said that his goal was to educate the community by encouraging them to sign up for the Connecticut Clean Energy Option on their CL&P bill. The 12-year-old Wilton resident said that if people sign up for this option, their energy usage will be made up of wind and landfill gas renewable energy credits, which would remove energy from suppliers using coal, oil, and gas generation, which can create carbon emissions that exacerbate global warming.

"Little People Big Change's main goal is to stop global warming," said Reichgut. "We have had a lot of people interested in signing up which is good, I would say about 250 people so far."

Wilton resident Leslie Chambers said that her favorite exhibit at the festival was the Rugamarole booth, which sold blankets made from old sweaters and quilts made from tT-shirt sleeves.

"This is the best thing I've seen," said Chambers. "I'm going to make my own -- this is a great idea. I have tons of old T-shirts at home and this is the perfect way to recycle them."

According to Wilton resident Pat Mahon, her favorite exhibit was the GEM EV4, a fully electric vehicle made for short trips in the community.

"This is pretty cool," said Mahon. "I haven't seen an electric car before -- it's pretty interesting."

According to Bertkau, the event was a huge success, but before any plans are made to have a Go Green festival next year, the Go Green Committee will have to talk to the Wilton Energy Commission.

"The Go Green Festival was a perfect community event," said Bertkau. "There were events for everyone, kids, families, older people. I think everyone had a great time, but we are going to have to see about next year. I will say maybe for now."

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Then they all got in their big SUVs and drove home to their 4000 sq.ft.

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