

KENNETT

Thousands expected for Memorial Day Parade

Annual event in Kennett scheduled for May 29 beginning at 10

For MediaNews Group

KENNETT » One of the more spectacular events of the year for Southern Chester County is coming soon to Kennett Square on May 29 at 10 a.m. Don't miss the Kennett Memorial Day Parade!

"Based upon years past, we are easily expecting over ten thousand people to join this marvelous patriotic event again this year," according to Kennett Borough Police Chief Bill Holdsworth. "The Borough of Kennett Square, Kennett Collaborative, and our Memorial Day Parade Committee

have worked really hard to put together this patriotic community event, including providing FREE access in our expanded parking garage. Plus, this year we're also providing FREE remote parking with bus access from and to nearby Unionville High School."

Expanded Performances for 2023

Daniel Embree, Executive Director of Kennett Collaborative announced a new surprise for this year's parade. "State Street can get pretty crowded as thou-

sands of people come in to hear the announcer, listen to patriotic music, and watch talented performers. As a remedy, we've added a new second announcer, music, and performance area earlier in the parade route near the 200 block of South Union Street. We hope this will increase access to parade information, highlights, and performances!"

Parade Entries

Parade entries can still sign up to participate thru Monday, May 22 at <https://www.kennettmemo->

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In this file photo, Revolutionary War reenactors bring patriotic music to Kennett Square during the Memorial Day Parade held downtown back in 2018.

Parade

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rialdayparade.com/participate.

A total of 116 parade entries are confirmed so far, including 12 bands, 9 military units, 16 riding floats, 25 community organizations, over 30 vintage cars and convertibles, the usual array of fire trucks and emergency vehicles and even more are entries are joining at the last minute.

Bands in the parade include the local Unionville and Kennett High School marching bands, an additional four Fife & Drum Corps units, five additional musical groups including the always popular Ferko Mummies String Band and Bill Johnson's Dixie Demons.

For a repeat parade performance this year, the world famous 75 member, 6 Time World Champion all-age Bushwackers drum & bugle corps will be returning. Based in Princeton, New Jersey, this band has near-professional qual-

ity members from the entire mid-Atlantic area coming to Kennett Square. The group travels worldwide and will be using the Kennett High School football stadium as a rehearsal base before the parade the afternoon of Saturday, May 27. Rehearsals available for public viewing will be conducted most of the day with both their outstanding brass and percussion groups coordinating their unique performance styles for everyone to see.

"The diversity of our parade participants is amazing and like non-other in our area," said Dave Haradon, Parade Chair. "We committed ourselves to a broader inclusivity of cultures with our performance groups, our participants and our attendees. This has resulted in a more beautiful and colorful experience for everyone attending our parade that foster a sense of community and togetherness."

Bring your Flags

Kyle Coleman, Kennett Square Borough Manger shared, "Don't forget to bring your flags, banners,

and red, white and blue attire to support our patriotic spirit. This is a great opportunity for all us to honor our U.S. military personnel who died while serving with devotion, loyalty and commitment in the United States Armed Forces to keep the freedom we all enjoy together! Our Memorial Day Parade in Kennett Square is a tradition to cherish and look forward to every year. We hope to see everyone in Kennett and southern Chester County join us to wave our flags together."

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony Schedule:

Sunday, May 28
Bushwackers Public Rehearsal — 10:00 am — dusk (lunch/break 12:00 pm-2:00 pm)

See <https://bushwackersdc.org/>

Monday, May 29
8:30 am — Parade Participants Lineup Begins
8:30 am — Tribute Ceremony — VFW Post 5467 (704 W Baltimore Pike)
9:15 am — Tribute Ceremony — Mary D. Lange

Kindergarten Center WWI monument (130 W Mulberry St.)

10:00 am — Parade Starts (see parade route map) 10:30 am — Veterans Lunch — American Legion (208 East State St.)

11:30 pm — Parade Concludes at Union Hill Cemetery (424 N Union St)

12:00 pm — Memorial Ceremony — Union Hill Cemetery

1:00 pm — Veterans Lunch — VFW Post 5467 (704 W Baltimore Pike

To view a list of parade entries in order of appearance, check online at <https://www.kennettmemorialdayparade.com/attend>.

A detailed downloadable map of the Kennett Memorial Day parade routes, access and parking is also available at: <https://www.kennettmemorialdayparade.com/map>

Details of the parade's many community sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible can be found at <https://www.kennettmemorialdayparade.com/sponsors2023>