

Dean Bank's staff will be serving the signature strawberry shortcakes under the tents in front of the bank. Strawberries prepared by Dean College will be piled on top of more than 1,500 shortcakes and topped with Garelick Farms whipped cream.

"The strawberry shortcakes are extremely popular every year" said Strawberry Stroll co-organizer Jennifer Hurst of Dean Bank. "We've almost doubled the number of shortcakes we can serve this year - more strawberries, whipped cream and shortcakes! Our employees always enjoy serving the shortcakes and we look forward to this event every year."

Plenty of entertainment will be available during the Strawberry Stroll. Live music will be available on two separate stages. At the corner of Dean Avenue and Main Street, Dean Bank will host its *Dancing on Dean* event that will feature local bands Matt Zajac and The Northeast Groove. On the Intermission stage, guitarist Jamie Barrett, Franklin School for the Performing Arts students and the Padula Brothers will be performing. Also, MyFM will be broadcasting live from the event and students from Feet In Motion will be dancing.

A food court highlighting some of Franklin's local restaurants will be in the parking lot behind Rockland Trust. Visitors can enjoy many favorites including pizza, calzones, hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and peppers, and much more. For the first time, wine and beer will be available at the Stroll in the food court area.

Other fun new additions this year include a crafters' area in the Main Street parking lot and an invitation to residents to wear straw hats to the Stroll to honor Franklin's straw hat manufacturing history.

"The Strawberry Stroll has grown every year and we decided to extend the event an extra hour this year to provide even more opportunity to enjoy it," said Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director Lisa Piana. "This is Franklin's summer block party not to be missed!"

A variety of activities will be offered that will appeal to young and old.

- The Franklin Historical Museum will be open and will feature the exhibit Victorian Secrets in addition to refreshments and music by Kai Olsson on the porch
- At the Berry Insurance booth, children and adults can paint rocks to be placed in the town's Kindness Rocks Garden
- The Franklin Fire Department will host its always popular Touch-a-Truck
- The weekly Farmers' Market will start at noon will continue to run through 6 p.m. on the town common
- Franklin Public Library Summer Reading Kickoff on the town common, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be handicapped and senior citizen parking available in the Dean Bank parking lot.