

## Summit Resident Honored at Red Cross Oktoberfest

Colonial Crossroads chapter celebrates during second-annual fall fundraiser.

By **Sarah Nathan** October 4, 2010

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A crowd of nearly 200 people gathered in the parking lot of the Colonial Crossroads chapter of the Red Cross Saturday evening. Not for a crisis, but for a celebration.

The chapter held its second-annual fall fundraiser and sported an Oktoberfest theme complete with beer tasting and Bavarian style food. The parking lot, normally filled with emergency vehicles, was decorated with white tents, candles and an array of local flora and fauna from the Great Swamp Greenhouse.

Mary Schaenen, communications manager for the Colonial Crossroads Red Cross, said the event has been very popular.

"We just started this particular fundraiser last year with a wine tasting and we had such a great time we wanted to do it again with a different theme," Schaenen said. "So I think an event like this is just a wonderful way to support the Colonial Crossroads Chapter and have fun, as well."

The event opened with the Hofbrau Haus German Band and their troupe of German folk dancers in traditional costumes. As the sun began to set, Lenox Underground, a local rock band, played the second set and provided some dancing music for the crowd of Red Cross volunteers and supporters.

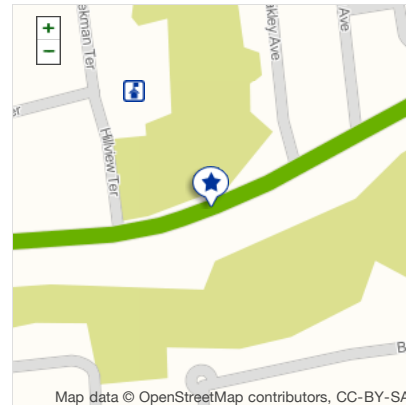
In addition to food and dance, Bruce Groves of Madison and Kevin Cummings of Summit were recognized for their dedication and service to the Red Cross. Executive Director of the Colonial Chapter, Christine Hodde, gave a quick speech and read a letter of recognition from New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Assemblyman John Bramnick presented the two men with certificates.

Groves, who is the president of Emilcott Associates, served as a Red Cross board member for eight years and said he was very honored to receive recognition.

"It's always an honor to be singled out and to be recognized," Groves said, "but you sit there and one of the first things you say is 'forget about it, I'm not half the volunteer that so many people are here.' But it's a good opportunity to at least put a face to a volunteer and to get more people involved in understanding what the Red Cross does. So I was pleased and I was proud."



PHOTOS (28)



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