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SPIRIT *of* **SPRINGFIELD**
Celebrating the city's biggest, best and brightest

For Wednesday, June 15, 2011

**JULY 4TH CELEBRATED WITH
STAR SPANGLED SPRINGFIELD**
Patriotism and Pyrotechnics in Riverfront Park

Springfield, Massachusetts—Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 2PM, in Riverfront Park, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, John Chandler, Chief Marketing Officer, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. (MassMutual), Dan Walsh, Vice President, Columbus Hotels and Spirit of Springfield Chair, and Judith A. Matt, Spirit of Springfield President will announce plans to celebrate Independence Day by making it a *Star Spangled Springfield*, sponsored by MassMutual. Also present for the announcement will be Springfield City Councilors, Springfield Fire Commissioner Gary Cassanelli, Springfield Police Deputy Chief William Cochrane, Fred Christensen, CB Richard Ellis/Tower Square General Manager, Michael Linton, Michael's Party Rental as well as other sponsors and supporters.

"The 4th of July festivities allow us to take a moment to recognize our Nation's Birthday and reflect upon the freedoms we enjoy," said Mayor Sarno. "More than ever, now, we need this morale boost to celebrate the resolve of our human spirit. The City of Springfield looks forward to welcoming everyone to our riverfront to enjoy the fireworks."

The July 4th festivities will start at 7:30PM in Riverfront Park's Festival Field. It will feature a performance by Dan Kane's Rising Stars and a grand pyrotechnic display at 9:30PM from the Memorial Bridge. Dan Kane's Rising Stars will feature 150 children

from age 6 to 15 performing patriotic, pop, Broadway and country. The performers are part of Kane's summer program in Westfield and represent a wide range of communities.

"As a member of the Springfield community for 160 years, MassMutual is honored to once again serve as the evening's sponsor," said Chandler. "The July 4th festivities are a great way to bring our community together in a celebration of pride, especially this year, as we rebuild a better and stronger Springfield for the future."

At 9:30PM, Fireworks by Grucci will ignite their rockets with a 20-minute fireworks display choreographed to music broadcast on Mix 93.1FM. They will be dancing to "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus, Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," "Make Me Smile" by Chicago, the "Armed Forces Medley" as well as a patriotic medley, and the "Springfield Song" when 3-7-5 will form in fireworks. "

The 2011 Independence Day festivities marks the sixth year that MassMutual has been the lead sponsor. It is also supported by Tower Square, Springfield Business Improvement District (SBID), WWLP-22News, Mix 93.1 FM, The Republican, Springfield Parking Authority, Elegant Affairs, Michael's Party Rentals, Elegant Affairs, 90 Meat Outlet, Charlie Arment Trucking, Springfield Steel Erectors, City of Springfield and more.

The *Star Spangled Springfield* is presented by the Spirit of Springfield, a non-profit organization celebrating Springfield's biggest, best and brightest for more than 20 years.

For more information, visit spiritofspringfield.org or call 413-733-3800.

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NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, the announcement will be held in Springfield City Hall, Room 220.