

Saugatuck to celebrate its renaissance

HOUR STAFF REPORT

WESTPORT — The Saugatuck neighborhood is experiencing a revitalization and what better way to celebrate and show off than with a festival?

The first Slice of Saugatuck Festival will take place from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday in the Saugatuck Center area of Westport with retailers and restaurants offering samples of their services and products. There will also be live entertainment, demonstrations and activities for families.

Matthew Mandell, a Westport Representative Town Meeting member, organized the event.

“Saugatuck is going through a renaissance in terms of food, retail and pride,” Mandell said in a release. “The festival emphasizes all that Westport has and gives the many merchants of Saugatuck Center an opportunity to be seen by residents looking for things to do in their own community. There is no reason to

look elsewhere any longer.”

Organizers have billed the event as a “free wine and food tasting and retail experience.” Visitors may park at Railroad Parking Lot No. 5 on Riverside Avenue and walk the streets, going from restaurant to restaurant sampling food and wine. The neighborhood also includes art galleries and retailers, such as kayak and fly fishing stores, which will offer demonstrations. The Saugatuck Firehouse will be open for tours and offer fire safety demonstrations.

There will also be live music with a main stage located on the plaza overlooking the Saugatuck River near the new development Saugatuck Center, built by Hamilton Development. The band “Parents with Angst” will perform, along with other bands.

Hamilton Development is the real estate arm of Gault Energy and Stone.

“Reclaiming this beautiful

piece of waterfront property for the enjoyment of the entire community has always been a top priority for us,” Sam Gault of Hamilton Development said in a release. “We’ve come full circle, welcoming folks back to a neighborhood that virtually disappeared with the construction of I-95. It’s wonderful to watch the area take shape.”

The festival will include the area from Riverside Avenue to Railroad Place, to Charles Street, and Saugatuck Avenue.

“The Slice of Saugatuck Festival is a celebration of the area’s vibrancy and is a testament to the community spirit that unites the businesses and residents of the neighborhood,” Mandell said.

More than 20 restaurants will be participating, including Mario Batali’s Tarry Lodge, offering free samples.

On the Web:

westportd1.com/saugatuck



Restaurants/Catering: ● Slice of Saugatuck Festival Map of Participants

- Black Duck - 15
- Boathouse - 2
- Cake Suite - 32
- Cocoa Michelle - 25
- Collyer Catering & Market - 35
- Commuter Coffee - 23
- Cuatro Hermanos - 30
- Doc's - 11
- Dunkin Donuts - 10
- Dunville's - 33
- Julian's Brick Oven Pizza - 4
- Mansion Clam House - 6
- Marios Place - 21
- Rizzutos - 7
- Roly Poly - 31
- Tarantino - 20
- Tarry Lodge - 28
- Tuttis - 14
- Viva Zapata - 5
- Westport Chinese Takeout - 29

- Wine Tasting: ●**
- Saugatuck Grain and Grape - 22
- Saugatuck Wine & Spirits - 9

- Retail: ●**
- Down Under - 13
- Eco Logic - 8
- Jessica Ryan's Salon - 18
- Johanna Straczek & Co. - 24
- Laura Barton Gallery - 26
- Minutemen Cleaners - 16
- Paul Albert Salon - 1
- Ron's Barber Shop - 19
- Saugatuck Craft Butchery - 12
- The Saugatuck Rowing Club & Fitness Center - 3
- Ultrathule - 34
- Westport Outfitters - 17
- World Championship Tae Kwan Do - 27

