



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Theodore L. Gatsas

Mayor

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The World's Championship Chili Cookoff Returns to Manchester in 2011

Manchester, NH – Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas announced today that Manchester, New Hampshire has again been selected to host the World's Championship Chili Cookoff (WCCC). "We are excited to return to Manchester in 2011. It proved to be one of the best locations we've had in the WCCC's 44 year history," began Carol Hancock, CEO of the International Chili Society.

The 2011 World's Championship Chili Cookoff will begin Friday, September 30th and run through Sunday, October 2nd. "I'm honored that the International Chili Society wants to return to Manchester. We put our best foot forward and proved that we could do it. This announcement is a real credit to the organizers, city employees and volunteers that made the 2010 event a huge success," added Mayor Gatsas.

The event drew approximately 25,000 people to Veterans Park for the experience. An economic impact study conducted by the Manchester Economic Development Office (MEDO) estimated the WCCC had an economic impact of \$1.4 million to the City of Manchester and area businesses. The greatest economic boost was felt by the area hotels and restaurants, many of which were sold out for the entire weekend.

When asked how the cooks and judges, who travel from all across the country to attend the cookoff, felt about returning to Manchester, Carol Hancock commented, "This was exactly what they wanted!" Ken Constal whom had never visited Manchester and traveled from Marblehead, OH to attend the 2010 cookoff added, "The City of Manchester did a great job, it was the best WCCC I have been too". Paul Whitney from Flagstaff, AZ reiterated, "One of the best organized events I've participated in." For more information about the 2011 World's Championship Chili Cookoff please contact Chris Wellington, Economic Development Office at 603-624-6505.

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