

66th Annual American Legion Bowling Tournament Comes to Norwich!

NORWICH – This year's chosen location for the 66th Annual New York State American Legion Bowling Tournament will be at the Norwich Family Recreation Lanes, proudly being sponsored by the Lt. Warren E. Eaton Post 189 of Norwich. The tournament will take place over eight days on four consecutive weekends: April 11-12, April 18-19, April 25-26, and May 2-3, 2015. Three hundred New York state members of the American Legion will be enjoying raffles, and vying for honors and prizes. All will kick-off this Saturday with a patriotic grand opening ceremony and local dignitaries.

Sixty teams (with five members each) signed up for the bowling competition and will participate in singles, doubles, and team contests over the four weekends. The Chenango County American Legion welcomes bowlers from Norwich Post 189, Sherburne Post 876, Oxford Post 376, S. Otselic Post 973, McDonough Post 1478, Green Post 692, Mt. Upton Post 1143, New Berlin Post 348, Bainbridge Post 806, Afton Post 925, and S. New Berlin Post 1289. Many participants will be coming from all over the state and will have time to visit the sites in our area.

A.L. Auxiliary of Oxford member and long time bowler, Sylvia Witchella, has been participating in the Legion's state tournament since 1986. She bowls all year at the Family Recreation Lanes, two times weekly, but still says she's not a high scorer; she bowls for fun and exercise. Of the Tournament, Sylvia said, "I've bowled all over, Oswego, Rochester, Buffalo, Long Island, and more. I'm really looking forward to it this year; we always have a ball!" Sylvia is one member of five teams from Oxford's post.

A grand opening ceremony with local dignitaries, including City Mayor Joseph P. Maiurano, will be held on Saturday, April 11, at noon. After the ceremony, matches will be played at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Each day after, matches will be played at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Community members are welcome to enjoy the pageantry of the ceremony and come each weekend to cheer on their favorites. Top finishers will be awarded honors and cash prizes.

Over the 66 years, the Tournament was only in Norwich once before, and it was long ago. The Norwich Family Recreation Lanes (formerly Plaza Lanes), is proud to have been selected. The bowling alley was originally established in 1984 and was purchased about a year ago by Oxford residents, Sue and Frank Ross. Both the Ross' are members of the Fort Hill Post 376 of Oxford and will be participating in the event. Their 28 lane bowling alley, with automated scoring, is located at 5640 State Highway 12 in the South Plaza. Call for more info: 334-2725.

Charlene and Don LeFever, of American Legion Unit 189 and Post 189 (respectively) are chairing the Tournament in Norwich. The Dept. of NY Bowling Committee is chaired by Richard I. Milton, of Canandaigua. All participating bowlers must be 2015 American Legion members: Legionnaires, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion. (Current Legion membership cards will be checked at registration.) To read more, visit <http://nylegion.net/bowling-tournament-in-norwich-in-aprilmay/>

###

Contact: Jeanie Petersen, Community Relations
Events@OxfordNY.com ; (607) 843-2121