

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **WINTHROP'S GREAT REUNION - A TOWN WIDE CELEBRATION**

Winthrop's Great Reunion, the multi-alumni reunion event to which the whole town is invited, is gearing up to be one of Winthrop's most historic gatherings. Scheduled to take place on Saturday evening June 24, from 6:00-10:30 p.m., under a tent at Winthrop High School's Miller Field, the Great Reunion is projected to draw thousands of participants, including alumni and others. Winthrop's Viking Pride Foundation is sponsoring the reunion to raise funds for its endowment that supports co-curricular activities in all Winthrop's public schools. All attendees must be 21 years of age.

The Hawaiian-themed evening will feature a buffet dinner, cash bar, raffles, prizes and a lineup of great entertainment including an appearance by well-known local singer, Ellen O'Brien. Tickets to the Great Reunion are \$60.00 each and are available on line at [www.vikingpridefoundation.com](http://www.vikingpridefoundation.com) or by calling 857-201-9795.

To kick off the weekend, a sunset cruise from Deer Island will take passengers to Boston Harbor for a beautiful evening featuring live entertainment, refreshments and a cash bar. Sponsored by Winthrop's Parks and Recreation Department and the Viking Pride Foundation, the cruise departs Deer Island at 7:30 p.m. and returns at 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 each and are available by calling Parks and Recreation at 617-846-8243. Free parking at Deer Island is available.

On Saturday, Sandcastle Day happens at Yirrell Beach from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. This fun-filled family day is always a big hit, drawing loads of children and families to enjoy hours of beach time with sand building competitions, refreshments and entertainment.

Interested in making a weekend of this event? Discounted rates are being offered for both Friday and Saturday evenings at area hotels including the Harborside Hyatt, the Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn as well as the Winthrop Arms Hotel. Mention the Viking Pride Foundation /Great Reunion when making reservations and reserve your hotel by June 1<sup>st</sup> to guarantee discounted rates. Arrangements for pick up and delivery to the Great Reunion may be made individually with the hotels and are encouraged in advance.

Drawing much attention to Viking Pride's outreach efforts this year is an exciting new corporate sponsorship program. With the approval of Winthrop's school officials, the Viking Pride Foundation is offering advertising opportunities along the fence at Miller Field. Corporate signs or "In Loving Memory" signs will hang for two years and are available in three sizes. Spaces will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. To learn more about the corporate sign program as well as Great Reunion sponsorship opportunities, visit the site at [www.vikingpridefoundation.com](http://www.vikingpridefoundation.com) or call 1-857-201-9795.

The Viking Pride Foundation also seeks donations of any kind for the upcoming reunion. Recognition of all donors will be publicized in the Great Reunion program. Gift certificates and/or goods for raffle prizes and gift bag sales are welcomed. Volunteers to help with alumni outreach and other event planning activities are also welcomed. Please call or visit the website above.

The Viking Pride Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for co-curricular activities in Winthrop's public schools. It was founded in 2004 after budget cutbacks and two failed tax overrides had a devastating impact on Winthrop's public school curriculum. Since its inception, the VPF has raised more than 400,000 and has awarded more than \$150,000 to the local schools. Large annual appropriations and sizeable grants given by this foundation continue to build critical programs including library and drama activities, math, art, debate and sports clubs. The goal of this foundation is to make this endowment perpetual, so that current and future generations of Winthrop students may benefit from programs like these that are essential to a well-rounded education.

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