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Welcoming Fall in the Grand River Valley Wine Region

BY ASHTABULA COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

<https://visitashtabulacounty.com/>

This is the perfect time of year to stroll through the vineyards of the Grand River Valley and enjoy the smell of ripening grapes just before harvest. Pick crisp, sweet-tart apples at one of our apple orchards. Before you know it, vibrant fall foliage will frame our 19 covered bridges. Experience one of our spectacular late summer or early fall sunsets over Lake Erie. Area anglers know that when the leaves start to change and the cooler temperatures arrive, it's time to put on your fishing waders, grab your fishing pole and cooler and sharpen your hooks.

You'll soon be seeing area winemakers harvesting their crops. Some pick by hand, others by machine. Either way, the grapes going into the bottle will

create unique wines ranging from dry to sweet and appealing to every palate. Sip a glass of fresh-pressed grape juice or watch the magic of harvest at a local winery this season.

This fall, explore Ashtabula County's covered bridges and experience Grand River Valley Wineries with mobile passports.

Visitors and locals alike will enjoy two mobile passports offered through the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau.

The Covered Bridge Trail Pass includes all of Ashtabula County's 19 covered bridges.

Users complete an easy sign up process to access the passport, then "check in" using geo-location at each bridge along their visit. Covered Bridge-themed prizes are up for grabs at three different tiers: 5 check-ins earn a pin or sticker; 10 check-ins earn a hat; and check-ins at all bridge loca-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU
This is the perfect time of year to stroll through the vineyards of the Grand River Valley and enjoy the smell of ripening grapes just before harvest.

tions earn a coffee mug or tote bag. Visitors will find a full description and address for each bridge in the mobile passport. A printed map is also available at the Ashtabula County

Visitors Bureau located at 1850 Austinburg Rd. in Austinburg. The Grand River Valley Wine Pass includes 27 winer-

SEE WINE PAGE 64

EXPLORE!

What's Happening on the Northeast
A NORTHEAST OHIO RECREATION GUIDE

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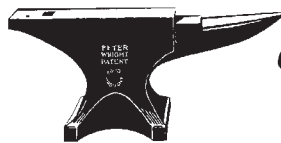
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The Great Geauga County Fair returns Labor Day weekend

BURTON – Ohio’s oldest continuously operating fair, The Great Geauga County Fair, is celebrating 201 years, as it returns Labor Day weekend.

The Great Geauga County Fair first took place in 1823, according to information from the fair website, www.geaugafair.com.

The Great Geauga County Fair was officially born in 1823, with the first “Fair & Cattle Show,” held on Oct. 23 in Chardon, lasting just one day. Rail pens were built on the square for livestock and agricultural and domestic products were exhibited in the old log courthouse.

Each year, some quarter million people of all ages from throughout the northeastern Ohio region and beyond flock to the Burton Fairgrounds, in the heart of Geauga County’s scenic Amish and maple syrup country to enjoy the more than 12,000 exhibits, animals, rides, food, music, entertainment and special attractions which are

featured, as billed in the Fair’s motto “Something for Everyone Since 1823.”

This year, the fair runs Thursday, Aug. 31, through Monday, Sept. 4.

Admission varies depending on the day. Admission is \$8 on Thursday for “Fun Day, Fair Day.” Gate admission on Friday through Monday is \$10. Children 6 and under are free each day.

Friday, Sept. 1, is Senior Citizen and Veterans’ Day. Senior citizens age 65 and older and all veterans are admitted free.

On Monday, an all-day ride band is a discounted \$10 for Family Day.

Tickets can be purchased online in advance for \$8, saving money and time in entrance lines. They can be purchased at <https://tickets.geaugafair.com/tickets>. There is also a five-gate pass good for five admissions for \$35.

Tickets also can be purchased in advance for the grandstand entertainment.

There will be plenty of evening entertainment during The Great Geauga County Fair.

The Demolition Derby takes place at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, and Saturday, Sept. 2, with a \$12 general admission grandstand ticket needed for each day. Open seating. Fair admission is not included. Children 3 and under free.

On Friday, Sept. 1, Chris Higbee will perform a free country music show at 8 p.m. in the Small Grandstand. Come watch a high-energy show by this amazing fiddler.

Harness Racing with Parimutuel Betting takes place at the Main Grandstand at 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, the Truck & Tractor Pull takes place at 6:30 p.m., with a \$12 grandstand

ticket. Children 3 and under free. A pit pass is \$15.

Earlier in the day is the Band-O-Rama at 1:30 p.m.

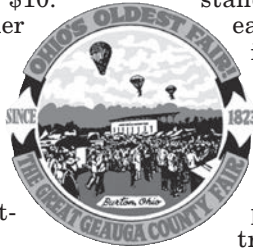
The High Steel Rodeo is 2:30 p.m. Monday, with a \$12 grandstand ticket. Children 3 and under are free.

The fair also will feature free midway shows daily, such as B&B Magic Show and the Sea Lion Splash Show. Strolling the midway is the Balloons by Blake on Thursday through Sunday, and the SupaFun Band on Friday through Sunday.

Shari Staiduhar will give a Woodcarving Demonstration daily in the Woodcarver Tent.

There will be live music throughout the week by The Great Geauga County Fair Band, Chardon Polka Band and Geauga Highlanders. Check the schedule for times.

Contests include a chicken flying contest on Thursday at



SEE GEAUGA PAGE 64

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Thunder on the Strip back for 17th year

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE - Geneva-on-the-Lake is well known as a summer destination, but it's a September event that is perhaps its greatest claim to fame.

For many, Thunder on the Strip and Geneva-on-the-Lake are synonymous.

"Thunder on the Strip is a long-time tradition for Geneva-on-the-Lake," Amanda Lloyd, marketing manager for the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau, said.

She is excited for this year's rally, which will be held from Sept. 7-10.

It's the 17th year for the annual event.

"It looks like it's going to be a great time," she said.

Lloyd noted that visitors come "from near and far" to attend Thunder on the Strip and enjoy the festivities.

And there are many.

"There's a lot of great musical acts and activities that are planned," Lloyd said.

One of those is the Founders Parade on Friday, Sept. 8.

According to the Thunder on the Strip 2023 schedule, the procession leaves East End Bar & Grill at 4:45 p.m. and rides to DW3's Saloon. It then leaves DW3's at 5:30 p.m., going to the East End Bar & Grill.

"People enjoy coming and gathering together to watch community members participate," Lloyd said.

The music is a real highlight for those attending Thunder on the Strip.

And this year's schedule of entertainers looks to keep the musical vibe going.

"I think it looks like a great lineup for the live music," Lloyd said.

Many of the musical acts are tribute bands playing the hits.

Some of the tribute bands listed on this year's schedule include Cheap Trick tribute –

Those Men inside my Brain, Rolling Stones Tribute – Give me Sugar and Hells Bells AC/DC Tribute, to name a few.

In addition, Thunder on the Strip also features a bar crawl all day each day, a Bikers for Christ Ceremony at the Yuengling Vendors Village at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, and a 911 Ceremony (Closing Ceremonies for Thunder on the Strip) at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, at Sportsterz.

Lloyd, meanwhile, had some tips for those attending Thunder on the Strip.

"We encourage all visitors to use caution because there is a lot of increased traffic starting early as everything starts on Thursday," she said.

Also, Lloyd urged people to get their rooms early if they plan to stay overnight.

"Secure lodging soon, as that can be very hard to come by in the Geneva on the Lake area," she said.

She noted there are hotels in



FILE PHOTO
Bikers take part in the 2022 Founders Parade at Thunder on the Strip.

the surrounding area, such as Austinburg and Madison, that will be close for people looking to attend the rally.

She commended the organizers who have been putting on the event for 17 years.

"The individuals that plan it do an outstanding job," she said.

Lloyd said to look for photos during the event on the social media of the Geneva on the Lake and Ashtabula County visitor bureaus.



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Music a big part of Thunder on the Strip

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE - If Thunder on the Strip has a signature sound, it would be the roar of motorcycles as they rev up and travel from one end of the Strip to the other.

Coming in at a close second would undoubtedly be the pounding beat of live music on

the stage as entertainers perform for the crowd.

And this year's 17th Annual Thunder on the Strip promises lots of musical entertainment for visitors.

"I think it looks like a great lineup for the live music," Amanda Lloyd, marketing manager for the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau, said.

Many of the musical acts are tribute bands playing the hits.

Some of the tribute bands listed on this year's schedule include Cheap Trick tribute – Those Men inside my Brain, Rolling Stones Tribute – Give me Sugar and Hells Bells AC/DC Tribute, to name a handful.

"It's a great throwback to a lot of the music that filled the air in Geneva-on-the-Lake for decades," Lloyd said.

With acoustic music scheduled as well, she thought there

would be a nice variety for everyone.

She noted the primary venue is the Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex.

She said it's a good place to watch the music being performed, with lots of seating and tables.

Lloyd said Sportsterz is another great place for music, as well as The Cove, which she noted is celebrating 60 years.

Schedule of music:

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7, 2023

- 3 p.m. – Acoustic George at THE COVE
- 4 p.m. – Third Monkey at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 4 p.m. – 4 Kings & The Queen at Sportsterz
- 4 p.m. - Piano Man Matt Gavula at Yankees Front Stage
- 6 p.m. - Blue Siren at Sportsterz
- 6 p.m. - Cheap Trick tribute – Those Men inside my Brain at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 7 p.m. - Levi Lynn and the Undesirables at East End Bar & Grill
- 8 p.m. - Rough Cut at Sportsterz
- 8 p.m. - DJ M@ at Yankees Front Stage
- 8 p.m. – Disco Inferno (Outside) at THE COVE
- 8 p.m. – Third Monkey at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 9 p.m. – Big Al & The Hitman (Inside) at THE COVE
- 10 p.m. – Rolling Stones Tribute – Give me Sugar at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater

Complex

10 p.m. – Doobie Brothers Tribute "China Groove" at Sportsterz

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 2023

- 1 p.m. – Emergency Alert at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 1 p.m. – Been a Long time Band at Sportsterz
- 2 p.m. – Acoustic George at THE COVE
- 2 p.m. - Piano Man Matt Gavula at Yankees Front Stage
- 2 p.m. - Eric Andrews at East End Bar & Grill
- 3 p.m. – Hells Bells AC/DC Tribute at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 3 p.m. - Grunge DNA at Sportsterz
- 4 p.m. – Tarp (inside) at THE COVE
- 5 p.m. – Emergency Alert at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 5 p.m. - Been a long Time Band at Sportsterz
- 6:30 pm – Tarp (inside) at THE COVE
- 7 p.m. - Motely Crue tribute at Yankees/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 7 p.m. - Bad JUJU at Sportsterz

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- 7 p.m. - Follow the Sun at East End Bar & Grill
- 8 p.m. - DJ M@ at Yankies Front Stage
- 8 p.m. - Metal Edge (inside) at THE COVE
- 8 p.m. - Hit Squad (outside)
- 9 p.m. - Hilltop Honey at Sportsterz
- 9 p.m. - Van Halen Tribute - Right Now at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 9 p.m. - 7% Superstar (inside) at THE COVE
- 10 p.m. - Metal Edge (inside) at THE COVE
- 11 p.m. - BATTERY - MASTERS OF METALLICA at Sportsterz
- 11 p.m. - Kiss Tribute Kiss Army at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
- 11 p.m. - 7% Superstar (inside) at THE COVE
- 12 a.m. - Metal Edge (inside) at THE COVE
- 1 a.m. - 7% Superstar (inside) at THE COVE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 2023

- 11 a.m. - Acoustic George at THE COVE
 - 11 a.m. - The Kingpins at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 11 a.m. - Hell Freezes Over - Acoustic Eagles at Sportsterz
 - 1 p.m. - Stratford Hill at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 1 p.m. - Never E Nuff at Sportsterz
 - 1 p.m. - French Blue at East End Bar & Grill
 - 2 p.m. - Piano Man Matt Gavula at Yankies Front Stage
 - 2 p.m. - HERN BROTHERS (Outside) at THE COVE
 - 3 p.m. - Foo Fighters Tribute "Back & Forth" at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 3 p.m. - Big In Japan at Sportsterz
 - 4 p.m. - Barcode (inside) at THE COVE
 - 5 p.m. - OLD SKOOL at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 5 p.m. - Never E Nuff at Sportsterz
 - 6 p.m. - DJ M@ at Yankies Front Stage
 - 6:30 p.m. - Barcode (inside) at THE COVE
 - 7 p.m. - Led Zeppelin & Aerosmith Tribute "Ledsmith" at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 7 p.m. - Hucking Fillbillies at Sportsterz
 - 7 p.m. - The Rustbelt Ragtops at East End Bar & Grill
 - 8 p.m. - Monkey Wrench (Inside) at THE COVE
 - 8 p.m. - 1988 (outside) at THE COVE
 - 9 p.m. - OLD SKOOL at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 9 p.m. - 7% Superstar (Inside) at THE COVE
 - 9 p.m. - Dead Level at Sportsterz
 - 10 p.m. - Monkey Wrench (Inside) at THE COVE
 - 11 p.m. - KID KENTUCKY & THE AMERICAN BAD ASS - Kid Rock Tribute at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 11 p.m. - Classic Rock Experience at Sportsterz
 - 11 p.m. - 7% Superstar (Inside) at THE COVE
 - 12 a.m. - Monkey Wrench (Inside) at THE COVE
 - 1 a.m. - 7% Superstar (Inside) at THE COVE
- SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**
- 11 a.m. - Rough Cut at Sportsterz
 - 12 p.m. - Rob Samay at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 2 p.m. - Disco Inferno at Yankies/Goblin Amphitheater Complex
 - 2 p.m. - Hern Brothers at Sportsterz



FILE PHOTO
The Rustbelt Ragtops performed at the 2022 Thunder on the Strip and will be back this year.



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Lake Erie Dart Classic set for early September

BY ANGELO VELOTTA
Gazette Newspapers

EASTLAKE – Bullseye!

The Lake Erie Dart Association returns with its yearly Classic tournament in early September. The tournament begins with events on Friday, Sept. 8, and concludes on Sunday, Sept. 10.

“It’s a three-day tournament that pays out \$11,800,” Dianna Calderone, office manager for the LEDA said.

“We get players from all around the U.S. and quite a few from Canada,” she said, in addition to the Classic getting plenty of local players from northeast Ohio.

Friday events start off with an early blind draw at 5:30 p.m. and a \$10 entry fee. Other events on Friday listed in order are men’s single cricket, women’s single cricket and an evening blind draw.

Saturday has a full slate with six events. Men’s double cricket starts things off at 10 a.m., and is followed by women’s double cricket, men’s singles, women’s singles, mixed triples and ends with a blind draw cricket at 8 p.m. Entry fees range between \$10 and \$45 for all of the separate tournaments.

Sunday will have three tournaments, with men’s doubles kicking things off at 10 a.m., and followed by women’s doubles and mixed doubles to round the 2023 LEDA Classic out at 1 p.m.

There will also be a World Dart Foundation youth event that tips off at noon on Sunday.

“Come out and take a look. It’s an interesting day,” Calderone said.

“The Dart Guys will be out selling massive amounts of supplies,” she added for those that just want to come up and watch



and maybe buy some darts and supplies for their garages, basements or collections.

Also, be sure to check out the LEDA Facebook Page, as leagues start up again on Aug. 30 and some teams are looking for new players to join their squad.

“The leagues run 14-week sessions and they play on Wednesday night at 7:30,” Calderone said.

“There are three skill levels available. Diamond for expert players, emerald and sapphire for new players,” she added.

“It costs \$30 per person for one year and you are set from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31,” Calderone said.

The league games are then all played at the home bar of the team hosting’s choice.

The Lake Erie Classic has been taking place since 1985 and this year will be held at a new location, the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel at 35000 Curtiss Blvd. in Eastlake. Darters who book a room at the hotel will be offered a discount rate of \$109 per night, which includes breakfast.

For more information on both the Classic and the Lake Erie Dart Association, visit www.LakeErieDarts.com and at the LEDA Facebook page. Questions can be sent to office@lakeeriedarts.com or call 440-975-9775.

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Wineries fall into the season with activities

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

NORTHEAST OHIO - With the leaves changing color, area wineries are also changing, too, with a shift to fall activities.

One of the big events this fall is the Cask, Corks & Forks Wine & Food Tasting Event from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 9.

"The Winegrowers of the Grand River Valley invite you to experience our dry red Cask wines paired with perfectly paired appetizers," a news release about the event states.

People can visit the participating wineries for a sample of their respective Cask wines, expertly paired with hearty appetizers, along with a second wine sample for \$12 per person at each location, the news release notes.

Participating wineries and menu:

Grand River Cellars – 5750 S. Madison Rd., Madison, OH 44057 www.grandrivercellars.com

Appetizer: Penne Pasta with Puttanesca Bolognese Sauce

Laurello Vineyards – 4573 Rt. 307, Geneva, OH 44041 www.laurellovineyards.com

Appetizer: House-made Meatball & Sauce with Crostini

Ferrante Winery – 5585 Rt. 307, Geneva, OH 44041 www.ferrantewinery.com

Appetizer: Ravioli in Roasted Wild Mushroom Truffle Cream Sauce

Debonné Vineyards – 7840 Doty Rd., Madison, OH 44057 www.debonne.com

Appetizer: Coq au Vin Chicken Skewers

Cask 307 – 7259 Warner Rd., Madison, OH 44057 www.cask307.com

Appetizer: Chocolate Truffle Wine Cupcake

A new feature this year will allow people to enjoy the Cask Tasting Package at each of the five wineries, have their card stamped and redeem it at their last stop for an elegant red wine glass.

According to the news release, the Cask Project began as an idea in 2010 to have a continual red blend from the Grand River Valley.

"Each year, a percentage of the wine will be bottled and sold to make room for the next year's harvest," the news release states. "The date on the bottle represents the year it began, '10' and the year it was bottled, '22.' Each winery used a different 500 gallon Cask barrel with vinifera grapes from their own farm. Perpetually aged, perpetually oaked and annually refreshed with a new exceptional estate vintage. Experience our exceptional reds."

For those who would like some art with their wine, Grand River Cellars at 5750 South Madison Rd., Madison will have "Brushes & Lushes on Canvas" from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14.

SEE WINERIES PAGE 63

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Perry Fall Fest set for Sept. 9

BY ANGELO VELOTTA
Gazette Newspapers

PERRY – As summer wanes in northeast Ohio, fall is right around the corner and so is the 2023 Perry Fall Fest.

Held at Lee Lydic Park, the event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 9, and run from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

“The theme is family oriented. We want to cater to kids and parents,” Perry Village Councilman Phil Cassella said. “This year the kids’ zone is specifically noted and confined and has games and bouncy houses.”

“Also, for the first time we have built a barrel train,” he added.

The barrel train was created by holing out plastic buckets, dressed like a train, which is then pulled by dolly that will travel around the park.

“We had help from a lot of volunteers and Perry students,” Cassella said of the train’s creation. Wristbands will be available for \$5 per child, and give youth all-day access to both the kids zone and the rides available.

“There is a hayride as well,” Cassella said.

“We will have 35 to 40 exhibitors on site around the perimeter of the festival and a large tent with Chinese auctions,” he said.

The profits of the Fall Fest go toward youth sports activities in Perry and the Perry Senior Center.

“There will be fish and wings, barbecue, coffee, yogurt and the recreation department always has a stand with pizza, popcorn, and soda,” Cassella said. “There will also be an enclosed area for adults with a beer tent.”

A full stage will offer a variety of fun activities, from face painting to a cake-decorating contest, and magicians. Balloon artists will travel about the festival, and the Perry High School marching band will kick off the day.

“Our biggest draw is our fireworks show at 9 p.m.,” Cassella said.

“We are fortunate enough to have pretty good connections to exceptional fireworks,” he added.

Cassella anticipates a crowd of well over 3,000 people throughout the day.

“We are really happy to have people from outside of the area too. We have a lot of support from the community, (including) from the Lake County Visitors Bureau to University Hospitals,” he said.

“You’ll be really surprised that a little place like Perry puts on a such a big event,” he added.

Lee Lydic Park is located at 3954 Call Road in Perry, Ohio.



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Local Youth enjoy the bouncy best of inflatable slides at the Perry Fall Festival.



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Blakeslee Log Cabin Days to be held Sept. 9-10

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP - The Ashtabula County Historical Society is proud to announce their annual Blakeslee Log Cabin Days returns in 2023.

Come take a horse-drawn wagon ride. See historic crafts in-the-making, such as blacksmithing and wool spinning. Learn to forage wild food, and all about monarch butterflies.

Come hungry – homemade pulled pork sandwiches, grilled corn on the cob, homemade pies, and that historic bean soup are on the menu.

There will be much much more to see and do on Sept. 9-10, 12-5 p.m. both days, at Blakeslee Log Cabin, 441 Seven Hills Road, Ashtabula, OH.

Returning from last year's event are the popular horse-drawn wagon rides, offered by Ralph Rice of Riceland Meadows.

Mr. Rice farms his land using Suffolk draft horses, a historic breed appropriate for homesteading and multiple purposes.

He is excited to teach about his animals and sustainable farming, and offers horse-drawn education at Riceland Meadows in Jefferson. Rice will be leading a team of horses pulling wagon rides for attendees throughout both days of Log Cabin Days.

Historic crafts and activities will be offered again, as well. Claar Butcher, the Blacksmith, returns with his travel forge and irons to demonstrate timeless skills.

John Wright Jr., of Red Beet Row education farm, will offer foraging walks identifying wild food and medicine growing on the grounds.

Terrie Schultz, a 20-plus year Log Cabin Days veteran, returns teaching wood burning and carving.

Sandy Rill shows off a pottery firing technique, lighting her handmade goods on fire.

Linda Porcello gives a Monarch Butterfly presentation at 1 p.m. both days.

The handcrafts on display at this year's event include:

- Pit-Fired Pottery & Sculpture
- Spinning Wheel & Alpaca Fleece
- Quilting
- Rope Baskets, Braided Rope
- Woodcrafts
- Candles & Corn Husk Dolls
- Handmade Soaps
- Blacksmithing
- Wood Carving & Burning
- Foraging & Wild Plant ID
- Monarch Butterflies, 1pm

There will be a genealogy table hosted by Carrie Wimer, Local History/Genealogy/Archives Coordinator at Ashtabula County

District Library. Wimer teaches genealogical research. Guests can come learn how to look up their family history.

Dave Snyder will be showing off some of his local artifacts and arrowhead collection on Sunday. He is a historian with a private local history museum in Andover. Snyder's impressive objects took decades to acquire. Come learn about state history.

Every year there is also a short Sunday evening service, hosted by Father Peter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ashtabula. Blakeslee is the birthplace of St. Peter's, the first episcopal church in Ohio. The service will be held at the close of the event, Sunday near 5 p.m.

There will be tours of Blakeslee Log Cabin given by members of the Historical Society throughout the day.

Blakeslee is the oldest log cabin in its original form and on its original foundation in the Western Reserve. Learn about immigrant populations that came to Ashtabula County in 1810 and the families that lived in the Blakeslee Log Cabin all the way up until the 1980s.

See the springhouse which allowed generation after generation to live at Blakeslee on spring-fed water. Eat homemade foods in the outdoor kitchen pavilion.

Tanya Kidd returns with her delicious pulled pork sandwiches. She has been helping make and serve food at Log Cabin Days since she was a little girl. Sausage patties, hot dogs and grilled corn on the cob will also be available.

The same bean soup recipe has been passed down in the Log Cabin Days tradition for over 30 years now. Courtney Johnson is the tireless volunteer who almost lives with the bean soup as she makes it over an open fire, in copper pots, from scratch, and sold throughout both days 12-5 p.m. Come taste the love in Johnson's soup and the hours/days that go into it.


And then there's the pies...many helping hands go into making donated homemade pies for sale. The Historical Society is up to 15 people donating 40 pies, at the time of this press release.


In the old days, Log Cabin Days would solicit 80-plus pies. Organizers are still requesting pie donations all the way until the day-of. If people have a pie to donate, come on by.

Log Cabin Days is an annual fundraiser for the Ashtabula County Historical Society. Funds raised go to the reconstruction of the boardwalk on the hiking trail at Blakeslee Log Cabin, which was lost in a flood in 2021, as well as to the continued efforts to reduce erosion of the land at Jennie Munger Gregory Museum in Geneva on the Lake, another property owned by ACHS. Giddings Law Office in Jefferson is the third building preserved by ACHS.

There will be a raffle - bidders can try to win an item from the raffle table. There are also Log Cabin Days t-shirts for sale.

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Madison Septemberfest has a new name and a new logo

BY TERESA ACKERMAN

Gazette Newspapers

MADISON – The seventh annual Madison Septemberfest will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 2-8 p.m. at the Bill Stanton Community Park located at 5585 Chapel Rd. under a new name, Madison Oktoberfest.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The new name and logo for the Madison Oktoberfest.

“This is the third year at Stanton Park,” said Tim Sizemore, the chairperson for the Madison Joint Recreation District and organizer for the Madison Oktoberfest.

Sizemore said that the Madison Septemberfest had been held in Madison Village for years, but that it became too big and having it moved to Stanton enabled them to have more room for the event.

The purpose of the Madison Oktoberfest is to raise funds for the Madison Joint Recreation District, which helps local youth recreational and sports organizations.

“Our two big fundraising events are Light Up the Park and the Madison Oktoberfest (formerly known as the Septemberfest),” said Sizemore.

Sizemore said this year, organizers will be using the chapel (located at Bill Stanton Community Park) as a beerhall for the Oktoberfest.

The chapel is now an open pavilion which, for this event, will feature the six breweries that will be participating this year. Attendees will be able to sample 20 different beers.

“Wine and spirits vendors will be located outside of the beer hall,” said Sizemore. “We will have chairs and high-top tables located throughout the park.”

“We want to have the small breweries here,” said Sizemore. “We try to have a great mixture, so when people come out, they say wow, that was pretty good. We want this to be like a beer fest.”

Doc Howard’s Distillery and Lake Erie Distillery will also be at the event with samples.

Sizemore also said there will be vendors throughout the park selling various items as well as two food trucks – Mary’s Urban Kitchen (from Geneva-on-the-Lake) and Pitmaster Dad (from Madison).

“This is the first year in business for Pitmaster Dad and their first year with us,” said Sizemore. “Another food vendor that will be there is Tornado Potato. They do spiral cut potatoes and add seasonings to them.”

“The Madison Soccer group will also be selling kettle corn,” said Sizemore.

There will also be games for the attendees to enjoy, including Cornhole, Jumbo Jenga and Baum Schlagen.

As far as entertainment, the Vinyl Arcade band will perform again this year.

“They do songs from the eighties. They do great with the crowd,” said Sizemore.

Sizemore stressed that “it’s important for us to have things for the attendees to do.”

For more information on this event, go to madisonrec.net or eventbrite.com.



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Harbor Hogs and Hot Rods is Sept. 9

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

FAIRPORT HARBOR – The sixth annual Harbor Hogs and Hot Rods celebration is Saturday, Sept. 9, at Fairport Harbor Memorial Park, 301 Third St.

The event is loaded with family fun, including a family-friendly dog show at noon.

Admission is free, it's \$10 to register a car, truck or motorcycle and event t-shirts will be available for \$20 each.

Visitors may enter their pup in the biggest, smallest, best trick, best trained and the ice cream eating contest.

The top three winners in each category receive personalized dog tags as winners of the dog show.

Donations benefit Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve. Registration is open prior to the event from 10 a.m. to noon the day of the show. Everyone is welcome. Dog parents are responsible for their canines.

The classic car and bike event returns to the quaint, waterfront village of Fairport Harbor. Open to all makes, models and years, this family-friendly event is sure to attract some of the area's best classic, antique and custom cars, trucks and motorcycles.

There will be live music by Dueling Piano Dames & DJ featuring Julie Slattery.

Visitors can walk the brick-paved streets to see the cool cars and bikes before strolling throughout the shady park grounds to check out vendors, food and entertainment. Activities include face painting, car and bike show contests, 50/50 raffle to benefit the reconstruction of the Veterans Memorial in the park, cash prize raffles, basket auction and fun for the whole family.

There will also be a drawing for a 2000 Harley Davidson Heritage Soft Tail or a \$5,000 cash prize; a one-week stay at an Airbnb Fairport Harbor beach or retreat house; and cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$300.

This one-day event will draw serious bike and classic car owners as well as those who provide important services to car and bike collectors alike, including insurance, detailing, customizing and related supplies. – it also features the Lake County Dog Show, plus new additions to this multilevel event.

\$10 registration fee for cars/bikes/trucks/dogs payable the day of the festival. Free general admission for all.

One hundred percent of event proceeds benefit Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve.

Event schedule:

- 8:30 a.m.: cars, bikes, trucks and vendors arrive
- 11 a.m.: opening ceremony with flag-raising and color guard, national anthem performed by Josephine Lallo on her saxophone.
- 11:15 a.m.: dog show.
- 12 p.m.: Live entertainment – Dueling Piano Dames & DJ featuring Julie Slattery.
- 1 p.m.: kids ice cream eating contest.
- 3 p.m.: car/bike show awards, motorcycle raffle, 50/50, raffle winners announced.

Car show plaques will be given out in several divisions. Best car or truck and best motorcycle will also take home \$250, \$150 for the runner-up.

Harbor Hogs & Hot Rods Car Show award classes:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Best in Show | Best Street Rod |
| Best in Show Runner-Up | Best Rat Rod |
| Best Original | Best Truck |
| Best Vintage – pre 1950s | Best Van |
| Best 50s Car | Best Motorcycle |
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PHOTO BY GABRIEL MCVEY
One of the classic muscle cars on display at Harbor Hogs and Hot Rods, a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro Super Sport, owned by Steve Borelli.



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Crafts in the Park returns Sept. 9-10 to Lake Shore Park

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP - The 14th annual Crafts in the Park returns to Lake Shore Park on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The free-admission craft show will feature hand-crafted gifts and decorations, ranging from T-shirts, sweatshirts, kids' items, crochet, fall wood yard signs, floral and mesh wreaths, baked goods, fudge, jewelry, beach glass decor and jewelry,

candles, soaps, signs, pumpkins and gourds, tumblers, pottery and more.

There are more than 140 vendors taking part in this year's show. There are at least 30 new crafters, according to organizer Candy Arp.

Some of the new vendors will be offering dried flowers and arrangements, dried soup mixes, herbs, primitives, wood crafts, seasonal outdoor signs,

furniture, cutting boards and, baked goods, jams and jelly, local honey, maple syrup products and more.

There will also be Crafts in the Park sweatshirts with some new designs for this year.

The Craft Show is a juried show, which means Arp care-

fully selects who to allow into the show.

Held rain or shine.

Lake Shore Park is located on Route 531, just east of Route 11, in Ashtabula Township. The concession stand will be open.

For questions, email craftsinthepark@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 14th annual Crafts in the Park returns to Lake Shore Park on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Rib Burn-Off returns to Lake Shore Park on Sept. 15-17

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP - The smell of barbecue will fill the air at Lake Shore Park on Sept. 15-17.

People with a craving for some home-cooked barbecue will feel right at home at Lake Shore Park, Lakeshore Drive, Ashtabula.

The 20th annual Rib Burn-Off, "Ashtabula County's Original," will return to Lake Shore Park in Ashtabula Township on Friday, Sept. 15, through Sunday, Sept. 17.

The Ashtabula Township Park Commission and the Ashtabula Township trustees/clerk put on the festival each year for the community.

The popular festival will feature a group of barbecue-rib vendors from all over the nation, disc golf, musical entertainment, a kids' zone, a classic car show and other concessions.

Along with ribs, there will be many other traditional fair foods sure to satisfy everyone's taste buds.

Admission to the 20th annual Rib Burn-Off is free, and there also is no charge for parking.

The schedule for the festival is as follows:

Friday, Sept. 15, 4-10 p.m.

- Kidz Zone, 4-10 p.m.
- Live Music, 6:30-10 p.m. by The Earthquakers

Saturday, Sept. 16, noon 10 p.m.

- Trivia Prizes & Best Dressed Country Outfit Prize
- Kidz Zone, noon to 10 p.m.
- Live Music, 12-4 p.m. by Tyler Reid
- Live Music, 4-6 p.m. by Just Lee
- Live Music, 6-10 p.m. by The Caliber Band
- Fireworks at dusk (Rain date is Sept. 17)

Sunday, Sept. 17, noon to 8 p.m.

- Sticky Fingers Disc Golf Event - registration begins at 10 a.m.
- Kidz Zone, noon to 8 p.m.
- Live Music, 1-4 p.m. by Bobby Hayes & the H2O Band
- Classic Car Cruise, 4-8 p.m. by Lake Shore Cruisers
- Live Music, 5-8 p.m. by Good Question

For more info, visit lakeshoreparkashtabula.org.

OLC offering day to discover

BY BOB ETINGER

Gazette Newspapers

CONNEAUT - The entire goal for the Gateway Outdoor Learning Center is to get kids to explore the great outdoors and discover the many wonders of nature.

Discovery Day is a way to accelerate that process.

"(Discovery Day) goes with our mission statement that we want to create curiosity and wonderment with nature," OLC Secretary Kathy Altman said. "The goal since we started the Outdoor Learning Center has been getting kids outdoors and in nature. A lot of other organizations have been trying to do the same thing. We're trying to bring them all together to help fulfill that mission."

Discovery Day will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Gateway Outdoor Learning Center, 230, Gateway Ave., Conneaut.

"Discovery Day is full of events for families to learn about the outdoors

SEE DISCOVER PAGE 18

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Fairy Garden Festival returns Sept. 16

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - The Fairy Garden Festival will make its return to Giddings Park in Jefferson on Saturday, Sept. 16.

Previously known as the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival, it had been held in June in the past.

With Julie Cole's retirement from organizing the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival, a new coordinator stepped in, bringing some changes while also keeping its location at Giddings Park in Jefferson.

Stepping in to take over the festival was Kristie Prescott, of Jefferson.

The Fairy Garden Festival celebrates fairy gardening, which is gardening in miniature.

It will offer an enchanted afternoon/evening of fun, food, families, merchants, music and more, from 12-10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Giddings Park,

104 E. Jefferson St., in Jefferson.

Added to this year's festival is live music, with performances from Falcon Grass, a local opening act; Damian Knapp Blues Band of Warren; Amanda Fish Band of St. Louis, MO; and Deuce n' Quarter, of Columbus.

There also will be Live Band Karaoke by Damian Knapp.

"A band plays behind you while you sing a song," Prescott explained.

There will also be a performance by Array of Light Fire Dancers at night, with hula hoops for everyone.

Elsa the Unicorn and her carriage will be back.

In place of the fairy prince and princess contest will be a dress-up parade around the park for all ages, with wagon pulls, bicycles and more also invited to take part.

Costumes are extended beyond just fairies. People are encouraged to get creative with their best mystical, magical and

festive attire.

"I'm looking forward to all the people dressing up," Prescott said.

Other activities will include contests, games and activities; face painting, Giant Jenga, Connect 4 and Cornhole; 20-minute crowns, wings and wands craft station; *FGF Pit Stop Booth for all fairy needs; and more.

Toads Abode & Eatery is a food vendor taking part.

Prescott hopes to create a fairy garden feel at the park.

"We're trying to do large flowers, so it feels like you're in the fairy garden," Prescott said. "In the fairy garden, everyone is supporting everyone. It's a way for the community to get together and for kids to have fun."

There will be the fairy garden contest once again, with a special prize for the winning garden.

"The chosen garden will be the theme of next year's festival. That means, your garden could be created into a life-size fairy

garden," Prescott said.

Email fairygardenfestival2023@gmail.com to participate, with FAIRY GARDEN CONTEST in the subject line.

Prescott also is involving more non-profit organizations in the festival. So far, Spiderweb and Homesafe are taking part, with there being a donation box for the organizations.

"We're looking to support some other nonprofits," Prescott said.

The festival is still welcoming more food vendors, vendors, volunteers and sponsors.

People who wish to be involved in any of those roles may email Prescott at fairygardenfestival2023@gmail.com.

Vendor applications also can be found at the FAIRY GARDEN FESTIVAL event page on Facebook.

Additionally, find the festival on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FairyGardenFestival>

DISCOVER

From Page 17

and nature," Altman said. "We're hoping kids who might be thinking of a career in the outdoors can come and learn something. The Outdoor Learning Center is about making people more comfortable with the outdoors."

The event will feature a blacksmith, the rangers from the forestry division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, a rope maker, the Purple Goat Gardeners, the Animal Protective League of Ashtabula County and another animal rescue group, as well as many other groups and organizations.

"We'll have someone there to talk about birds in the area," Altman said. "A lady will be coming to talk bees and making honey. Of course, we'll have a group come to talk about butterflies because we have the pollinator garden."

Other organizations that will be in attendance will include the Ohio

State Highway Patrol and Cuyahoga Valley National Parks.

"We have more than 20 vendors right now," Altman said. "That doesn't count the different activities. We're very, very excited."

There will also be plenty of kid-specific activities.

"The Conneaut Public Library will be there," Altman said. "We'll have bluebird houses that were built and kids can come decorate and take home. We'll also have a scavenger hunt that will take place on the nature trail."

A recently added attraction is a crowd pleaser.

"We have a stagecoach coming," Altman said. "They'll be giving free rides. We had them in last year and it was a big hit."

While at the event, visitors will be able to get a free hot, chips and a water and they can purchase 50/50 raffle tickets or raffle tickets for the kayak and Yeti cooler.

"We've had a lot of help from the area with the food for the event," Altman said. "Marcy Funeral Home, the Conneaut Area Chamber of Commerce, Save-A-Lot, Dairy Queen and Thompson Smith Nesbitt Funeral Home made donations for food."



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Grape JAMboree to offer a bunch of fun

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

GENEVA - After a summer of getting plump, the grapes will be harvested off the vines this fall.

It's a time to gather the bounty and to celebrate.

And in Geneva, that means it's time for the 58th Geneva Grape JAMboree Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24, in the city.

"It's in the midst of the harvest season, and it's another iconic event that people travel for from near and far, as well as locals," Amanda Lloyd, marketing manager for the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau, said.

And the JAMboree wouldn't be the JAMboree without its signature parade.

It takes place twice, with the first one at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. According to the schedule, this parade features "Part One" bands, floats and fun. Then at 2 p.m. on Sunday, the parade is held once again with "Part Two" floats, bands, and visiting festival queens from across Ohio.

"That parade is very special to the community and the people watching it," Lloyd said. "It's definitely an iconic event for our area celebrating grape growing and the winery region."

Noting that more than 50 percent of grapes in Ohio come from the Grand River Valley region, she said the distinction is "something to celebrate."

And celebrate they will.

After a welcome Saturday at 10 a.m. by JAMboree President Brian Kelly and a Blessing of the Festival, things get busy.

The Red Hackle Pipe and Drums of Cleveland will kick off the event at 10:15 a.m., following by a karate demonstration at 11 a.m., youngster grape stomping at 11:45 a.m., more grape

stomping at 12:15 p.m., the Band-O-Rama at Memorial Field at 2:30 p.m., the introduction of this year's Miss Grapette and her court at 3:10 p.m., parade awards at 3:20 p.m., a baby contest at 3:30 p.m., a pie eating contest at 5 p.m., a seven-mile run at 5:30 p.m., The Rod Stewart Experience by Steve Bobbitt at 7 p.m. and Confederate Railroad from Nashville at 8:30 p.m.

The day gets started off Sunday with a community church service on the stage from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Other activities include a baby contest at 12 p.m., junior grape stomping at 12:45 p.m., adult grape stomping at 1:15 p.m., a welcome and introduction of festival queens from all over Ohio at 3:40 p.m., parade awards at 4:20 p.m., Geneva's Image performing at 4:30 p.m., Gospel Hour at 5:15 p.m. with musical entertainment by the Worship Team from Eagleville Bible Church, a performance by internationally-recognized Elvis tribute artist Kavan at 6:15 p.m. and a performance by Rick K and the Allnighters at 7:45 p.m.

With all these offerings, Kelly is pumped up about the JAMboree.

"I'm excited," he said. "I'm really looking forward to it this year. Last year, we had great numbers, so we're really looking forward to it. We're bringing back a lot of traditions, but adding new flavors at the same time."

He noted that Band-O-Rama is coming back after at least two decades.

In the event, high school bands are invited to come and compete against each other by putting on their half time shows in front of everyone.

Kelly said it was a huge draw in its day. Although this year's Band-O-Rama will be small, he said it's the first step to having

SEE GRAPE PAGE 58

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Fairport Harbor Community Day marks its 85th anniversary Sept. 26

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

FAIRPORT HARBOR – Fairport Harbor Community Day was established 85 years ago by the Fairport Harbor Men’s Civic Club – now the Fairport Harbor Civic Club – to bring the community together to celebrate its heritage.

This year’s event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, in Fairport Memorial Park.

Fairport Harbor nonprofit organizations, including churches and schools, are invited to open a vendor booth for free. For-profit vendors are also welcome, but are required to make a \$25 donation to the Fairport Harbor Civic Club to pay for the space.

Forms are available at the Fairport Public Library, Fairport Senior Center and Fairport Harbor Village Hall. All organizations should complete an application and return it to 635 Eagle St., Fairport Harbor, OH 44077 or email fpttwin@gmail.com by Sept. 20.

Community day will be filled with entertainment, food, crafters, raffles and games for children. The Civic Club will sell Italian sausages and hot dogs.

The Fairport Harbor Police and Fire departments will have personnel available to meet the public. A fire truck will be available for the public to inspect.

For more information about the event, contact Kren Bidlack at 440-251-3150 or by e-mail at fpttwin@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
VFW Post 7754 opens a previous Community Day with the flag raising.

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Covered Bridge Festival returns this year to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds Festival runs Oct. 14-15

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival will return this year to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, 127 N. Elm Street, Jefferson.

In most recent times, the festival had been taking place at Giddings Park in Jefferson.

In its 39th year, the festival will be held Oct. 14-15, with free admission and parking.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The festival includes official souvenirs, parade, crafts, entertainment, demonstrations, contests, kids' rides/games and great food.

Returning contests include a Lego covered bridge contest, troll costume contest, scarecrow contest and baked goods contest.

Found on the fairgrounds will be official Covered Bridge Festival souvenirs, food vendors, the Mini Bridge, antique cars, antique engines, apple-butter making demonstrations, inside and outside crafters, historical displays, kids' activities, trackless train rides and more.

People craving their annual bean soup by the Jefferson Rotary Club may find it at the fairgrounds during the festival.

There will also be Jr. Bridger activities and laser tag in an inflatable house.

The Jefferson Depot, also located in Jefferson, will be open for people to tour the 1890 village from 1-4 p.m. both days.

Visitors coming for the two-day festival should be sure to stop at downtown Jefferson for some of these events in between touring the bridges in the county.

Learn more about the festival at <http://www.coveredbridge-festival.org/index.html>.

39th Annual Covered Bridge Festival

Schedule is subject to change

Saturday, Oct. 14

8-10 a.m. - Drop off Mini Bridges (including Legos), art projects, scarecrows and baked goods for judging at the Expo Building

9 a.m. - Noon - Pancake Breakfast at the Expo Building

9-10:45 a.m. - Drop off entries for baked goods contest at Expo Building

10 a.m. - Festival/Craft Building opens

10 a.m. - Kids' activities begin

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Car Show/Antique Engine Show

10-10:45 a.m. - Walnut Hill Cloggers at Barnard Pavilion

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - John and Marian King as Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln at the Log Cabin

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Romick Railway rides at the milking stand by MAC Building

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Chainsaw Chix performance by the antique engines area

11 a.m. - Baked goods contest judging/mini bridge judging

11 a.m. - Art contest judging/scarecrow judging

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Kings of Revelry at the Grandstands

SEE BRIDGE PAGE 56

Ashtabula Harbor dining

ASHTABULA - The Ashtabula Harbor has become a dining destination in northeast Ohio, offering a variety of restaurants on Bridge Street and the nearby area.



OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- **Bascule Bridge Grille**, 1006 Bridge St., Ashtabula 440-964-0301 - *New American cuisine*
- **Briquettes Smokehouse**, 405 Morton Dr., Ashtabula 440-964-2273 - *Authentic BBQ*
- **Cloven Hoof Brewing Co.**, 1308 Bridge St., Ashtabula 440-536-4344 - *Nano-brewery*
- **Fire Chicken Sandwiches**, 528 Lake Ave., Ashtabula 440-650-5002 - *Fire chicken sandwiches and sides*
- **Fitzgerald's Wine Bar and Restaurant**, 1023 Bridge St., Ashtabula 440-536-4361 - *Restaurant and shop*
- **Halcyon**, 1119 Bridge St., Ashtabula, 440-536-4291 - *Multi-cuisine*
- **Harbor Perk Coffeehouse and Roasting Co.**, 1003 Bridge St., Ashtabula 440-964-9277 - *Coffeehouse and roastery*
- **Hil-Mak Sea Foods** - 449 Lake Ave. 440-964-3222 - *Seafood, with a market around the corner*
- **Lakeway Restaurant**, 729 Lake Ave., 440-964-7176 - *Italian cuisine*
- **Marianne's Chocolates**, 1038 Bridge St. 440-964-0384 - *Chocolates and candy store*
- **Phoey Farms**, 1012 Bridge St. 440-536-5841 - *Offering breads, meats, vegetables and prepared foods for sale*
- **Rennick Meat Market**, 1104 Bridge St., Ashtabula 440-964-6328 - *American steakhouse*
- **Nights and Weekends Pizza**, 1035 Bridge St., Ashtabula, 440-661-4061

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ASHTABULA COUNTY FARMERS' MARKETS

- **ASHTABULA FARMERS' MARKET:** Sundays: June 11 - Oct. 15 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. No market during major festivals on Bridge Street. Located in the parking lot of 1105 Bridge St., Ashtabula. Find on Facebook at: Ashtabula Farmers Market. Sponsors Super Summer Farmers' Market Education with WIC and Community Action.
- **CONNEAUT FARMERS' MARKET:** Saturdays: June 19 - Oct. 14 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Located in the Moose Lodge parking lot at 280 Park Ave., Conneaut. Find on Facebook at: Conneaut Farmers Market. Longest running market in the county. A great place to find locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods and hand-crafted items.
- **GENEVA FARMERS' MARKET:** Saturdays: June 24 - Sept. 30 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Hosted by Geneva United Methodist Church. 89 S. Broadway, Geneva. Find on Facebook at: City of Geneva Ohio/Events. The market offers produce from local farmers, food products, arts and crafts, flowers plants and new for 2023- live music!
- **JEFFERSON FARMERS' MARKET:** Saturdays: June 10 - Oct. 14 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Located behind the Jefferson Historical Society, 42 E. Jefferson St. Find on Facebook at: Jefferson Ohio Farmers Market. A community-oriented market with a wide selection of produce- Accepts WIC coupons.
- **MY NEIGHBORHOOD FARMERS' MARKET & FARMSTAND:** Saturdays, July 1 through Sept. 2 • Saturday: 10 - 11 a.m. • Clifford Kardon Presidential Park, 5835 Madison Ave, Ashtabula. Tuesdays, July 11 - Aug. 29 • 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. or until sold-out. Located outside Premiere Fitness in the APMC Health and Wellness Plaza, 2231 Lake Ave, Ashtabula. Find on Facebook at: MyNeighborhoodCollaborative. Non-profit, operates out of the community garden. Accepts SNAP and Senior Farmers Market Coupons.
- **PIERPONT FARMERS' MARKET:** Saturdays: June 24 - Sept. 30 • 8 a.m. - Noon. The Wright Building, 1071 Route 7 N., Pierpont. Find on Facebook at: Pierpont Farmers Market. The market welcomes a diverse set of quality vendors and features an on-site coffee shop

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ASHTABULA LOCAL FOOD. LEARN MORE AT [HTTPS://ASHTABULALOCALFOOD.ORG](https://ashtabulalocalfood.org).

LAKE COUNTY FARMERS' MARKETS

- **WEST ORCHARDS FARM MARKET:** 3034 North Ridge Road, Perry • 440-259-3192 • Five generations of farm-fresh fruit and produce. The 70-acre farm offers sour cherries, peaches, plums, nectarines, pears apples. Please call ahead for availability. Open seasonally June through December.
- **MENTOR FARMERS MARKET:** 7967 Mentor Avenue, Mentor • wildwood@cityofmentor.com • The Mentor Farmers Market returns Fridays from 2-6 p.m. at Eleanor B. Garfield Park from June 16 through Sept. 15. Find locally grown produce, baked goods and more. Enjoy an afternoon under century-old shade trees while shopping for delicious fresh-picked fruits and vegetables, specialty baked goods, plant starts, honey, maple products and other farm-related products.
- **HEART OF WILLOUGHBY AND WILLOUGHBY OUTDOOR MARKET:** 2 E. Spaulding St., Willoughby • 440-479-8641 • The Heart of Willoughby Outdoor Market has been the signature event for the "Heart of Willoughby" since July 9, 1979. It is the longest-running outdoor market in Lake County. Each Saturday morning from May to October, you will find the market in the parking lot of Willoughby City Hall from 8 a.m. to noon.
- **MADISON VILLAGE OUTDOOR MARKET:** 125 W. Main St., Madison • 440-428-7526 • Held every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a variety of vendors. Enjoy the nearby Concerts in the Park running from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **PAINESVILLE FARMERS MARKET:** Painesville Square • 440-392-5912 • Held in Painesville Square Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. from May to September. Enjoy local produce, sauces, flowers, honey, soaps and more. Lake County's best farmers market features produce picked that morning and local products. Stop by for lunch and enjoy the awesome food trucks.

Antique and Thrift Stores are plenty around Pymatuning Lake

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

ANDOVER - Whether you are a seasoned thrifter or a beginner in the antiquing world, it can be an exciting adventure to find a one-of-a-kind vintage treasure. In the Pymatuning Lake area, there are plenty of businesses to check out and discover that hidden gem.

TWIG

At this vintage store, you can find antiques, furniture, lighting fixtures, clothing, housewares, custom jewelry and architectural elements. They work on salvaging items and finding vintage treasures to curate into products for the store. If you need a unique gift for someone or just yourself, stop by this lovely vintage shop.

Located at 29 Public Square in Andover, their hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You can contact them at (814) 440-6850.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

TWIG in Andover invites you to come inside and find something unique.

SAPS – This-N-That Thrift Store

Offering a wide selection, this thrift store sell clothes, toys, hygiene products, household items and more. They add new items to their inventory every single day. Both new and gently used items are available. They accept donations, and will even pick up donated items within a certain distance. Check this eclectic thrift store out and get yourself or a loved one a gift.

Located at 20 US-6, Andover, they are open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily. You can contact them at (440) 293-7277.

Farmhouse Supply

This charming antique store offers a variety of products, including home décor, glassware, clothing, handmade candles, unique gifts, and other one-of-a-kind items. They provide farmhouse wares for an authentic farmhouse style. Stop by this antique store and get your own little piece of history.

Located at 5750 W. Center Rd., Linesville, PA., they are open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday. Their phone number is (814) 683-3104.

CommUnity Thrift of Andover

Items offered at this store cover a wide range of products, including clothes of all sizes for both men and women, tools, kitchenware, crafting supplies and materials, small appliances and more. They run primarily on donations from the community to offer items at discounted prices. Check out all they have to



CommUnity Thrift of Andover has treasure of all sorts for the right person to find.

offer at this exciting thrift store.

Located at 74 Public Square, Andover, Ohio, they are open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday through Tuesday, and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday. You can call them at (440) 858-3773.

Finders Keepers Thrift

A hidden gem, this thrift store offers collectibles, antiques, household items, tools, furniture, and much more. Featuring unique items that are restocked regularly, this shop is not your typical vintage store. Stop by this thrift store and uncover some hidden treasures for yourself.

Located at 325 W. Erie St., Linesville, Pa., they are open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Monday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday. You can reach them at (814) 573-8230.

Olde Red Barn Antiques

and Collectibles

Housed in a large red barn, you can't miss this antique store. Offering a wide variety of items, they have oil lamps, quilts, blankets, kitchen wares, dressers, wooden cabinets, antique tables, home décor and more. Check out this unique vintage store and take home something interesting.

Located at 186 W. Main St., Andover, they are open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. Their phone number is (440) 293-6495.

The options are endless when it comes to shopping around the Pymatuning Lake Region. Whether you're a local or camping at the State Park, take some time to check out some of these interesting and unique stores. Maybe you will discover a new treasure you never knew you needed.



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- 4 lbs Drums
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- 20- 1/4 lb Burgers
- 5- 1 lb-Per-Pack Ground Beef

440-548-1018

Museum preserves history of railroad

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

CONNEAUT – The City of Conneaut grew in direct correlation to the three railroads that ran through the community. Over time, the two have become so interconnected it's difficult to separate them.

"That's because the Nickel Plate was so big at the time, up there," Fred Lemmo, Conneaut Historical Railroad Museum vice president, said. "From what I've heard in their heyday, they hired almost 1,500 people. Because of that, and also because of their docks, which is the Bessemer, there were a lot of people. We used to get a lot of stuff into the docks because of the iron ore going down to Pittsburgh. Those two railroads being as busy as they were, everybody in town here, any family you ask, either their uncle, their dad, their grandpa, their brother, somebody worked on the railroad and that's why it goes through everybody's blood."

The Conneaut Railroad Museum preserves that history and presents it to the community.

"The most important part, I think, at this museum, is it's called the Conneaut Railroad Museum, and the reason why it's called the Conneaut Railroad Museum is because almost everything in here is about Conneaut railroads," Lemmo said. "It's about the Nickel Plate in Conneaut. It's about the New

York Central that was here in Conneaut and it's about the Bessemer that was in Conneaut. We have other things, too, but, mostly, it's all that. Everything in here has been donated by people in town. It's a railroad museum, but it's a Conneaut railroad museum."

The museum, 363 Depot St., is open to the public Thursdays through Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day and displays authentic items and pictures donated by the men and women whose lives were impacted by the railroads, while telling the story of the industry in Conneaut.

"We also have taken it upon ourselves the last year or two to start rearranging some of the displays and try to get them to center more on the three railroads and remove stuff that really doesn't belong in this museum because those railroads were never representative of this town," Jeff Morrell, Conneaut Railroad Museum president, said. "Move it out. Back when the museum opened, people started donating stuff. They were looking for stuff, so whatever they got, they threw in a case or they put on a wall. Really, we've reached the point of saturation, so we have to start going through and thinning the herd, which is why we had the rummage sale. We needed to make some room in here."

During the 2023 season, the museum has undergone some improvements.

"By the end of the season, he'll have the whole outside of the building repainted," Lemmo said. "He's working on it now, so not much longer, maybe a little bit after the season, but he'll finish it before long."

The color used for the trim – century green – is authentic to the New York Central.

"I actually got the correct shade of paint from the New York Central System Historical Society, they have all the paint specs for the railroad for all their engines, their freight cars, their passenger cars, and they can actually give you the paint specs and so they actually gave me a small jar of the paint because it's been mixed up for modeling purposes," Morrell said. "I just painted that onto a stirring stick and gave it to the gentleman out there at Sherwin Williams."

Some cleaning will take place, as well.

"Once he's done with all the painting, he's going to power wash the outside bricks," Morrell said. "He's going to make it look like new and it looks so much better now with all the new paint."

The museum hosted a rummage sale during the Fourth of July weekend that raised money for some of the projects being completed at the museum.

"We sold some of the stuff we in the back in our warehouse, mainly model trains, which we still have HO trains, few people donated to us that we didn't need and they told us



PHOTOS BY BOB ETTINGER
The Bessemer stands tall at the Conneaut Historical Railroad Museum, 363 Depot St., Conneaut.

we could sell it. That helps at least pay for some of the things we're doing."

The museum also received a grant from the Lakeville Hose Boosters to help with the cost of some of the projects.

"The building is 123 years old and needs some loving care, otherwise it's going to end up like the library uptown and fall apart," Lemmo said. "We want it to last a lot longer for the next generations, so that's why we're trying to work on it."

"There's always something that needs to be done on something, same thing with the

SEE RAILROAD PAGE 53



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Market Square

The Indian Museum of Lake County details the area's precolonial history

BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Gazette Newspapers

MENTOR – The Indian Museum of Lake County is a beautiful little place, tucked behind the busy plazas on Mentor Avenue. Visitors must drive around to the back of the plaza to get to the entrance, but it is certainly worth the search.

The museum director, Ann Dewald, gives tours to school groups, families or whomever drops by. Reservations are necessary, so someone is available to narrate the tour. Arranged chronologically, starting with the prehistoric, the exhibits are wonderful.



Indian Museum of Lake County Director Ann Dewald shows off a hand drill in the style used by prehistoric Native American people.

The beginning concentrates on findings from the Reeve Village archeological site in Eastlake. The site was discovered when condos were set to be built in 1973. Upon initial excavation, Native American artifacts surfaced. Shortly after the discovery of the artifacts, people showed up in droves to do their own amateur archaeology.

One of those explorers was Gwen King, a speech pathologist at Eastlake Middle School. King enlisted her husband William and the rest of her family to come help dig it together. They discovered many of the pieces now housed in the museum. The condo developer granted King and her family three weeks to find whatever they could before construction had to resume.

King also brought on Ann Dewald, a friend and colleague. The two educators often took items to school to teach the students about Native American history and culture.

Getting the Lake County Archeological Society of Ohio to support them, they started the museum and gave these native artifacts a proper place to be displayed and appreciated. The project took years until the museum was finally opened in 1980 at Lake Erie College.

The collection was there for 25 years in a small room in the basement. When the college decided to make other use if the

space, the museum was moved to the Willoughby Junior High Technical Center, Building B, where it lived for 10 years.

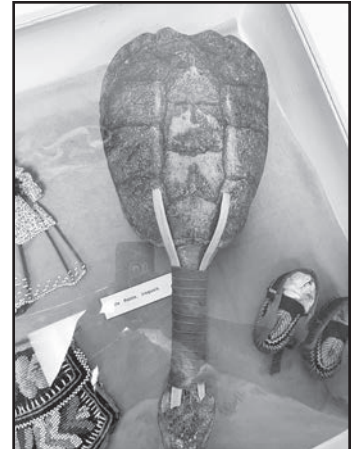
Once again, the museum was displaced when the school system determined they could no longer afford to house it. In 2016, Dewald and her volunteers helped to secure a little office space. The museum is funded through donations, memberships and admission rather than collecting any government funding. The museum is primarily operated by volunteers.

Dewald says she has logged upwards of 43,000 hours so far in her career as museum director.

The museum offers a variety of educational programs. October will include a presentation on the Ojibwe people. Date and time to be determined. It will feature drumming, dancing and discussion about tribal beliefs. These are done by local experts, although Dewald is certainly knowledgeable on all native peoples topics.

An air of mystery surrounds many of the exhibit items. There is an Alaskan soapstone carved whale that rotates counterclockwise in its case. Other objects seem to move inexplicably. Dewald has no explanation for this. She remains the open-minded observer.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. on week-



PHOTOS BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

An Iroquois rattle made from a tortoise shell on display at the Indian Museum of Lake County.

ends. The museum accepts cash or check only, no credit or debit cards. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$2 for students. Pre-K children are free. The gift shop is filled with exquisite items and books to purchase.

Use your GPS, then rely on your good sense, to find this museum. The handcrafted exhibit items are spectacular. It's local Native American culture, preserved and loved.

The Indian Museum of Lake County is located at 7519 Mentor Ave., Suite a112, in Mentor. For more information, call 440-951-3813 or visit indianmuseum-oflakecounty.org.

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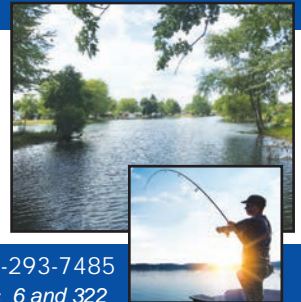
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Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy a camper, which is kind of the same thing

BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Gazette Newspapers

GENEVA – It's August. The days are getting shorter. The leaves will start to change color. The lake will have more and more rough-water days.

None of this will slow down



PHOTOS BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Willow Lake Campground is a great place to go to enjoy the last good weather of the year.

the campers! They are looking forward to more bonfires and cooking over the flames. At Willow Lake Campground, 3935 N. Broadway St., Geneva, fall can be spent at one of their 50 camping sites. All of them have full hookup, including power, water and sewer.

Visitors can park their tent, full size RV or anything in between. They also offer boat and trailer storage.

The office has a little store with some necessities and playful items, including tourism materials for Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ashtabula County and many of the surrounding businesses, events and activities.

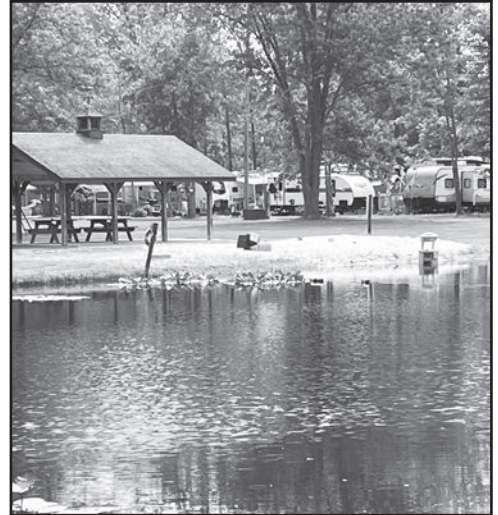
The swimming and fishing lakes (separate, of course) are beautiful. The playgrounds are well maintained and modern. The dog park is welcoming. There are basketball courts and cornhole games.

A photo contest is currently running. The winner will be awarded a SWAG bag. Their season runs from May 1 to Oct. 31.

Once parked, fall is overflowing with events and activities. There are hay rides, winery tours, covered bridge trails, and much, much more!

Willow Lake gets approximately 60-75-percent return visitor rate. Many campers reserve a site for the following year before they leave.

There is a waiting list for Thunder on the Strip weekend (Sept 7-10) and Memorial Day 2024 is already booked.



With summer waning and autumn coming up, there are still a few weeks of good weather left to go camping.

Autumn is amazing in north-east Ohio. Grab your gear and head on up, before the snow is upon us.

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Fall kayaking gives splendid views

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

ASHTABULA COUNTY – Kayaking is often considered a summer activity, as temperatures are high and the water is warm. When the thermometer starts to drop, the boats and paddles are stored for the winter.

Doing so before the truly cold weather sets in, however, just may be a bad idea, as there is still plenty to enjoy on the water during the autumn months.

“There are many advantages for getting out on the water during fall,” Harbor Yak Outfitters owner Brandon Hart said. “The first advantage is the temperature is perfect. It’s not too hot and usually a very comfortable experience. The water temperature is still very warm even if the air temp is on the cooler side. Another advantage is the colors of the fall foliage. The changing leaves makes for beautiful reflections and landscapes.”

Traffic on the waterways also slows making for a peaceful experience.

“During the fall months, the boat traffic is minimal,” Hart said. “It’s often you and the water.”

Anglers will also find that getting on the water in the fall will be an exciting endeavor,

“The great steelhead run is a huge advantage for fisherman,” Hart said. “Fish typically start to stage in September. Take out your favorite rod and a box of spoons or crank baits.”

While heading out on the water during the fall, it is smart to dress for the cooler temperatures.

“When paddling in the fall it’s always a good idea to take an outer layer just in case you get cold,” Hart said.

Adventure is also a good reason to kayak as paddling around the shores of Lake Erie or Pymatuning Lake or down the Ashtabula and Grand rivers, Conneaut Creek or Upper Shenango

Water Trail, can take a person to places they might never find.

“It can take you places you can’t go on foot,” Hart said. “I like to say it’s like hiking, but on the water. You use the paddles as your feet to carry you around. You get to see things you wouldn’t get to see if you were on foot.”

Kayaking the waterways can be an almost religious experience.

“Regardless of your religious thoughts, being on the water is a holy experience,” Pymatuning Rentals and Information Center owner Tonya Seaborn said. “When people are through for the day, they talk about how uplifting it was.”

Harbor Yak, 1 Ferry Dr., Ashtabula, operates along the mouth of the Ashtabula River and inside the break wall on Lake Erie and allows boaters the opportunity to see things they might never come across.

“They get to experience wild-life,” Hart said. “There are a lot of birds, the occasional deer,



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Kayaking the waters of northeast Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania provides the opportunity to view beautiful sunsets.

snakes, turtles and all sorts of aquatic life. Definitely, where we’re at, you get to see untouched land, natural vegetation, wild flowers, all sorts of grasses and awesome sunrises

SEE KAYAK PAGE 51



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Pymatuning Deer Park is fun for the whole family

BY CORINNE SCHOREN
Gazette Newspapers

JAMESTOWN – Time to take a day trip down to the southern tip of Pymatuning Lake to see and pet some of the world’s beautiful and exciting animals at Pymatuning Deer Park.

This family-owned and operated animal park is located at 804 E. Jamestown Rd., in Jamestown, PA. Pymatuning Deer Park has been open for 70 years, originally established in 1953. It has been a family tradition passed down for generations that brings joy to other families who visit the park.

Current owner and manager, Rachelle Sankey, remembers her grandparents and her parents running the place, and enthused about how much of the place was built by hand by her dad.

“He had an architecture degree,” Sankey pointed to the handmade wooden boardwalk built by her father. “It’s a reminder daily of what he did here. Dad’s stamp is on everything.”

Pymatuning Deer Park features over 250 animals and birds from all over the world, both domestic and exotic. Visitors can stroll through the wooded area, with shade from the canopy of trees, and encounter animals of all kinds, often getting the chance to touch or feed them. The park hosts animals such as foxes, goats, donkeys, zebras, primates, rodents and of course five different species of deer.

“The animals are our family, you know, we name all of them,” Sankey emphasized. “They start

to recognize different people, even regular guests to the park. People will come up to me and say ‘Hey I think Marvin [the monkey] recognized me today!’ It’s more personal for people.”

Located in a central area, the park sees visitors of all kinds, from areas like Cleveland, Columbus or Pittsburgh, and local residents as well. The park is right down the road from the Pymatuning State Park campgrounds, allowing for a unique educational experience for campers of all ages.

One of the main attractions in the park is of course the Kiddie Zoo, a fun for all age’s petting zoo. Children and adults can get up close and personal with a variety of baby animals and other domestic farm animals, such as sheep and cows.

“You know a lot of kids in more urban areas don’t have the opportunity for this kind of up-close learning experience,” Sankey explained. “Some kids don’t know the difference between a goat and a sheep because they’ve never seen one in person. They might find out they have an interest in farming or animal care, and they wouldn’t have that opportunity otherwise.”

More attractions include pony rides for children and the Deer Park Express train ride. Not an ordinary pony ride, kids can hop on a pony and be led along the wilderness trail through the heart of the park.

Whole families can enjoy an exciting train ride through the backwoods while counting how many deer they can see during the trip.

The Deer Park Express train



PHOTO BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Not very often do people have the chance to see a full-grown bull elk up-close, let alone feed him and pet him.

has an interesting history itself. While there has been a train ride at the park since the beginning, in the late ‘80s, the park purchased a larger train from Idora Park, a small amusement park in Youngstown, and expanded the ride.

“People will come in and ride the train, and say ‘I rode this train at Idora Park years ago!’ It’s good memories for a lot of generations,” Sankey said.

Visitors can spend an hour or a whole day walking through the Pymatuning Deer Park, taking multiple pictures of the up-close and personal interactions guests can have with most of the animals living in the park.

After spending quality time with the animals, guests can check out the gift shop before they leave the park. The Deer Park gift shop offers a variety of souvenirs and gifts to help visitors remember the fun they had at the park.

Sankey enthused about how important it is for kids to have opportunities like the park.

“It can be a special little mo-

ment for small children, being able to pet and feed an animal they’ve never seen before. It is a really unique and educational experience,” Sankey said.

Pymatuning Deer Park is open seasonally. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, they are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, and after Labor Day through the end of October, they are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekend only.

Admission prices are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for children ages 2-12, and free for children under 2. Season passes are available as well, with adult passes costing \$40, senior passes for \$34, and children passes for \$28.

Additionally, separate tickets can be purchased for the extra attractions. It is \$3 per ticket for the pony rides and the train ride. Guests can purchase food to feed to the animals for \$2 per package.

Pymatuning Deer Park is located at 804 E. Jamestown Rd., in Jamestown, PA. This park is fun, educational experience and a blast for the whole family.

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Pymatuning State Park is holding Fall Camp-Out

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

ANDOVER – The heatwave of the summer is soon to be over, and it will be time to enjoy some fun fall activities, like camping and roasting hotdogs over a fire. This September, Pymatuning State Park is hosting its annual Fall Camp-out for all the visiting campers.

Held on Sept. 15-16, this camp-out features fun activities for all ages, such as tractor rides, corn hole, bingo, movies and even trick or treating. The camp-out is hosted at the Pymatuning State Park campgrounds, located at 7514 Pymatuning Lake Rd., in Andover.

Friday night of the event will feature a meet and greet for all the campers, with chili and hotdogs available to attendees. A family friendly movie will also be shown, weather permitting.

On Saturday, crafting tables will be set up for kids and a scavenger hunt will take place, as well as trick or treating, and hay rides. There will also be a cornhole tournament and bingo held for those interested in signing up.

Along with the exciting games for people to play, the event also features a campsite decorating contest. Campers can embellish their campsite with spooky or silly Halloween décor for a chance to win the competition.

After the trick or treating, the three best decorated sites will win prizes. Signup sheets for the contest, as well as sign up for the hay rides will be available at the park office.

This event is exclusive for campers at the park, and reservations are required. There are 300 campsites, and sites fill up quickly. The campground offers full-hookup sites, as well as electric and non-electric sites.

Pymatuning State Park Campground is open year-round; call (866) 644-6727 to make a reservation for a campsite. The camp office is open from May-November and can be reached at (440) 293-4292.

Upcoming Ashtabula County Metroparks walks

The Ashtabula County Metroparks invites people to visit the metroparks.

Senior walks and other evening walks are taking place at the metroparks in the county.

Senior walks are 8 a.m. on the following dates and locations with Metroparks staff:

- Sept. 5, Camp Peet Metropark
- Sept. 19, Lampson Staging area
- Oct. 3, Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark

“Behind the Scenes” monthly walks with Ashtabula County Metroparks are being held to show off some of the properties and share upcoming projects.

- 6 p.m. Sept. 12, Upper Grand, Cork Cold Springs Road
- 6 p.m. Oct. 24, Hatches Corner, Route 7
- 9 a.m. Nov. 18, Indian Mound
- 9 a.m. Dec. 9, Harpersfield



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Seven Brothers Distilling Company: *Come for a taste... leave with a bottle*

BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Gazette Newspapers

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP - Upon entering The Seven Brothers Distilling Company in Harpersfield, there is a staircase to the left that leads to a piano bar.

One can almost see Billy Joel there, tinkling the ivories.

The rest of the place is equally fabulous. Beautiful tables, chairs, and a bar, made of a luscious dark wood. The walls are lined with the work of a local painter. There is a patio outside. The whole place is warm and inviting.

Kevin Suttman is the owner of this fine establishment. Sutton has been brewing and distilling since the age of 14. As an adult, while working in sales/construction, Sutton first started drinking beer and spirits, soon acquiring a taste for craft beers. The brewing

of craft beers followed, leading to the distilling of spirits.

His interest was irrevocably peaked while visiting a brother in San Francisco during his college years. They walked past what smelled like a bakery. It has always been the science that has captivated him. The attraction of the Science. The Science of Tasting. The Science of Creating.

Fast forward to 2008, when Sutton decides to leave his career and devote himself to full time distilling. He met Andy Gendrin and Nora Chafin around this time. They would become the Expert Mixologists that will help make Sutton's dream a reality.

The business began on a low budget and has been expanding organically through simple supply and demand. Sutton designed and uses a vacuum still that remains his tool of choice to this day. The move from Leroy to Harpersfield came once they

outgrew their little barn in 2011.

The partners searched for a premium venue, but none "checked all the boxes." They decided to build to suit their needs. The current building was completed in 2022. The building stands on an old apple orchard.

Sutton named this little spir-its shop in honor of his six brothers and one sister. He even named the "The Angry Sister" cocktail (lovingly) after her. Like her, the drink is sweet, yet carries a stinger, similar to a lemon drop.

The distillery boasts a rotating variety of hand-crafted cocktails.

Gendrin's and Chafin's role is to freely create, and they do. Delights like the Smoked Maple Bacon Old Fashioned sound amazing. The whiskey is maple bacon-fat washed and hickory-smoked. The Seven Botanicals Gin Infusion, with juniper, lemon



PHOTO BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

The welcoming sign out front of Seven Brothers Distilling Company, 6527 N. River Rd. (State Route 307).

peel, herbs and spices, seems just as mouth-watering. For the Espresso Infusion vodka, coffee beans are used in the infusion still to keep the flavor and leave the color and caffeine behind.

Those are just a few of the spirits offered.

SEE BROTHERS PAGE 63

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Mark Evans, Owner




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Visit the Peter Allen Inn and Event Center for your next night out

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

KINSMAN – Whether you're looking to host your wedding, spend the night in a historic building, or simply look for a great bite to eat, the Peter Allen Inn and Event Center has all the amenities.

Peter Allen Inn and Event Center, located at 8581 Williamsfield Kinsman Rd., in Kinsman, offers a variety of services for visitors to the area, as well as the local community.

The Peter Allen Inn and Event Center is the perfect place to host events, such as weddings, baby showers or graduation parties. Offering a variety of packages to make your event special, they provide the space, decorations, and even catering if you chose.

Weddings have become a big hit at the gorgeous property, with

the Peter Allen Inn providing everything needed to make that special day perfect.

The inn itself offers three different room options, each designed with comfort in mind. The Peter Allen Room and the Dudley Allen Room each feature a four-poster king bed, with a private walk-in shower, authentic fireplace and flat screen television. The Severance Suite includes a full-kitchen, a private entrance to the stone courtyard and can accommodate up to six people.

Peter Allen Inn includes a full-service kitchen and tavern, featuring a delicious food menu, as well as an impressive wine list. Anyone who calls themselves a foodie would be happily pleased with the offerings, such as wood-fired pizzas, charcuterie boards and surf and turf. They're open



PHOTO BY CORINNE SCHOREN

The original building was built by famed architect Willis Smith and preserved in the Library of Congress.

SEE PETER ALLEN PAGE 50

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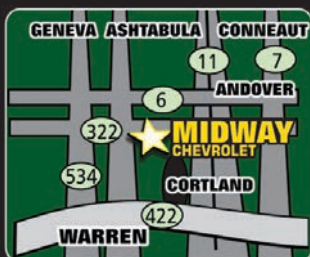
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MIDWAY CHEVROLET

Wineries and breweries to visit in Pymatuning Lake region

BY CORINNE SCHOREN
Gazette Newspapers

PYMATUNING LAKE – Fall is the best time to visit wineries and breweries. As the kids go back to school, the adults need time to themselves to enjoy a glass of wine or a bottle of beer. In the Pymatuning Lake Region, there are several options to check out.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Stable Winery stands tall in this former race horse stable.

Just south of the Andover town square is Stable Winery, located at 5961 State Route 7. Originally built in the 1930s, it was constructed to house race horses, but eventually was renovated into a residential home in the 1990s.

Now owned by the Litwiler family, they purchased the property in 2017 for the sole purpose of turning the stable into a winery. They offer a diverse selection of wines, varying from dry to sweet, as well as bourbon and beer options. Their most popular wine is their Cross Fire, a dry red blend, and their Blanket Finish, a sweeter white Niagara. They host a variety of public events throughout the year, as well as private events.

Stable Winery is open from 5-9 p.m. on Thursday, and 12-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Check out their website at stablewinery.com for lists of events and current menu offerings.

Just a short drive from Stable Winery is Emerine Estates, located at 5689 Loveland Rd., in Cherry Valley, outside of Jefferson. This family owned and operated winery specializes in all natural fruit and traditional wines. This winery was opened in 2003, and has been producing wine like no others. Each grape is grown on local plots or greenhouses, hand-picked and pressed, using no machinery, artificial flavors or colors in their products.

Emerine Estates is open 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Visit their website at emerineestates.com for a current wine list and event schedule.

On the Pennsylvania side, Mortals Key Brewing Company is located at 4224 E. Lake Rd., in Jamestown, Pa. On the edge of Pymatuning State Park, this brewery offers a variety of beers, made from Old World recipes, using the finest ingredients and made in small batches. This brewery has something for everyone, offering styles such as pilsners, porters, ciders, IPAs and more.

You can visit Mortals Key from 3-9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 12-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 12-6 p.m. on Sunday. Visit their website at mortalkey.com for a current tap list and event calendar.

Right next door is Gatehouse Winery located at 4218 E. Lake Rd., in Jamestown, PA. This winery is housed in an old barn, originally built as an exhibition for the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. Taken apart and rebuilt in Jamestown, the building was used to house livestock, but is now home to a winery filled with laughter and music. Gatehouse Winery offers a variety of wines, from dry to sweet, as well as a food menu with different pizzas to try.

Gatehouse Winery is open from 3-9 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday, 12-9 p.m. on Saturday, and 12-6 p.m. on Sunday.

Blueberry Railroad, the railroad that runs on pie

BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Gazette Newspapers

GENEVA – Who knew a delicate blueberry would come from such a rugged bush? These delicious little fruits enjoy quite a short season, roughly one month, between July 10 and Aug. 10.

Half of the 800 bushes are able to be picked, while the other half remain pruned down to endure the cold winter. Bushes can last up to 20 years in this temperate climate. There are three different varieties that ripen at different rates.

To protect the ripened fruit, speakers play predatory bird sounds to discourage hungry birds from feasting. They get their turn once the season is over and the sounds are turned off. The harvest yields 2,000 pounds in a good year.

During the harvest, visitors can pick their own from the many bushes on the property. Upon arrival, pickers sign in and are given an old coffee can

to hang around their neck. It is a perfect example of recycling in its most basic form, reusing. Once the cans are full, the berries are weighed and purchased. Cash or check only. No credit cards.

Driving back to the bushes, past the miniature (one-eighth) size locomotives, is a delight itself. The property is gorgeous and serene, hidden from town by beautiful woods. Kathy Losely and Roberta Uhrich are living the dream with this retirement labor of love. The farm gives enduring purpose to those who work it.

After purchasing the 90-acre farm from the Reger family in 2002, they enlisted volunteer retirees to help keep it going. Shortly after that, Michael Uhrich began to transform the barn into a mini railroad repair shop. Every Tuesday, they host a group of mini railroad enthusiasts for lunch and shop talk. They teach each other and support each other in this fulfilling hobby. They even have T-shirts that read “Eat. Sleep.

Railroad. Repeat”.

Losely bakes and no-bakes mouthwatering pies, cakes and “the best jam in the world,” using her secret Swiss recipes. Uhrich is banned from the kitchen during creation. She’s welcome back to serve the group their dessert.

Behind the barn, Uhrich and his compadres have laid almost two miles of track for the trains, which run by battery, steam and coal. They transport the trains to Penitentiary Glen in Kirtland to show them off and offer free rides from real train engineers from Lake Shore Live Steamers. Go to lakemetroparks.com for the 2024 schedule.

The 11 months of the year outside blueberry harvest is spent with their other crops that include corn and soybeans, which rotate annually. This year is soy, 2024 will be corn. Asparagus and wildflower



PHOTO BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON
A miniature train at Blueberry Railroad.

patches also decorate the fields. Bees and butterflies populate the fields, pollinating the plants and protecting their young.

Visiting this farm is a zen experience. 200 visitors come annually to relax and commune with nature. And of course, they leave with delicious blueberries or other produce, and the satisfaction of a day well-spent, sans any hustle and bustle. This beautiful farm is a must-see little gem.

Blueberry Railroad is at 2663 West St., Geneva. For more information, visit BlueberryRailroad.com or call 440-289-4432.



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Yorkie's celebrates three decades

BY BOB ETINGER

Gazette Newspapers

LINESVILLE, PA. – When Ron York walked into an auction in 1992, he had no idea he was about to bid on the next three decades.

That's exactly what he did, though, as he bid on an ice cream shop that he and his wife, Virgalee, turned into Yorkie's Grille and Custard and opened on July 19, 1993.

"I went to an auction," York said. "That's how I bought it. I went to an auction and came home with an ice cream shop."

Jen Schepner, the Yorks' daughter, now owns and operates the shop located at 1368 PA-285 in Linesville, and was pleased to have hosted the 30th anniversary celebration.

"I think it was, probably, very emotional for my parents," Schepner said. "We had a radio station here doing a live thing and that was nice. They had (my parents) on the radio. We had a lot of specials. I think they were very proud of their accomplishments because they did a good job."

York never envisioned celebrating a 30-year anniversary at the shop.

"It was like a retirement because I was driving truck for a Linde Air and then it turned into Praxair," York said. "We used to say this place was subsidized by them because, probably, for the first seven years, if not for the paychecks coming in, we might not have made it. Then, all of a sudden, it was like the light switch turned on."

Schepner, along with her husband, David, had absolutely no plan to take over the business from her parents.

"Never, ever, ever, ever," Schepner said. "Never, ever. I had already moved out. I had children young. I had a family. I got into sales. I sold pharmaceuticals for a long time, but I got laid off in 2015. I was selling health insurance with Aetna and my dad's knees were bad and my mom's not very mechanical. He needed help putting the ice cream machines together because of knees and hands. He has arthritis. I said I'd help him while I was laid off. My husband and I own a Howard Hanna office, so we have a couple of rental properties ourselves. We looked into this as an investment property. However, I didn't know the amount of sweat equity I'd be putting into this place. It's back to manual labor."

The reason Schepner decided to take over Yorkie's, however, had little to do with money and a lot to do with continuing to build what her parents had built.

"I think that was my number one purpose," Schepner said. "It wasn't as much the financial investment, it was my parents would have been mortified to sell this to somebody else. (My dad) would have been really upset. He's very happy."

Schepner still runs the shop much the way her parents did.

"We do the same buy one, get one free on Mother's Day, same flavors, weekend flavors are always the same," Schepner said. "(My dad's) here every day, still helping me out with stuff. We

jokingly call him our maintenance man."

York likes that his daughter found her way into the family business. There's hope that, one day, one of Schepner's sons – Matt, Josh or Zack – will take over for their mom.

Schepner has other goals she's pursuing, but doesn't see leaving the Yorkie's behind anywhere in the near future.

"I am starting pharmacy school next week," Schepner said. "Somehow, I'll manage all this, but I don't see myself giving it up anytime soon, unless one of my boys wanted to take it. I hate to sound like my dad, but I think it'll stay in the family. I just have a good feeling."

"I think he's proud," Schepner said. "I think he's very proud and it's possible, in the future, one of my boys might take it over. We're not sure yet, but you never know. I think my dad is very proud that it's stayed in the family and kept his name."

When Schepner took over, she gave the business a facelift with decks and new roofs on the buildings and, most recently, a new sign.

"Jen came in and she put the roofs on and the decks and spruced it up more," York said. "It was terrible (when we bought it). The house was the living quarters at Presque Isle at the lighthouse. They moved down to the boat livery sometime in the 1960s, late 1960s, and then when they moved it to the marina across on the causeway, then they brought it up here."

The new sign allows Schepner

to utilize some technology in promoting her brand, but not at the expense of tradition.

"I wanted to get a new sign because it looks nice," Schepner said. "That needed cleaned up out there. There was some electrical issues, but be hopefully I'll get it working this week. There's an electronic portion, so we'll be able to put our flavors on it as opposed to our letters, which are always falling off the sign and flying all over the park. The iconic sign that was out there with the ice cream cone and the hot dog, I didn't want to lose that for people who have been coming here for years. We put little face holes in it and, of course, now people can take their pictures and so that's cool. I thought that was a good way to have the new but keep the old, also."

Both York and Schepner credit the way they and their staff treat customers as the biggest reason they are still business after all this time.

"Well, there's a bunch of things (that have allowed us to grow over 30 years), location, our help, we've always had good help," York said.

"In my estimation, it's mostly really good service," Schepner said. "We have good product, of course, but good customer service. I think people appreciate good customer service. My parents are working class people. They did a really good job of building up a good business here. They really did."

SEE YORKIES PAGE 48



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Local Passport launching a restaurant crawl in Ashtabula

ASHTABULA - The Local Passport is launching a restaurant crawl in Ashtabula from now through Oct. 9 featuring 10 local restaurants including members: Becker's Restaurant, Halcyon, Hil-Mak, Dublin Down Irish Pub & Eatery, Crow's Nest and Cloven Hoof Brewing.

- People can pick up a Local Passport at any of these locations.
- The aim is to encourage customers to explore and support local eateries, with the added incentive of a \$1,000 cash prize for those who visit all locations by the end of the campaign.
- The restaurant employee who initially handed out the winning passport will also receive a \$500 prize.

• The Ashtabula campaign page can be found at <https://www.thelocalpassport.com/ashtabula>.

The drawing for the winning completed passport will be held approximately one week following the final day of the specific campaign. It will be announced on The Local Passport Facebook page, and the winner will be contacted directly.



Patriot Day Tribute Concert returns to Lakeshore Park on Sept. 11

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP - A Patriot Day Tribute Concert will return to Lakeshore Park on Monday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m., at the park's main pavilion.

The event will feature Lee Ann Bancroft singing the National Anthem, as well as "Abe & Mary Lincoln" lookalikes John and Marian King and participation from American Legion Neal Post #743 of North Kingsville and the Ashtabula County Young Marines.

There will be a musical performance by Good Question. The free event is hosted and presented by the Ashtabula Township Park Commission.

The Park Commission invites everyone to come out and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and a gorgeous sunset.

There will be door prizes, and the concession stand will be open. Free admission and parking.

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Brant's offer visitors an experience

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

SHEFFIELD TOWNSHIP – As leaves turn from green to shades of red, yellow and orange, the trees at Brant's Apple Orchard begin showcasing their fruits bringing visitors from far and wide.

"I think people are looking for something to do in the fall," Brant's Apple Orchard owner Jennifer Diehl said. "What are you going to do in the fall? There's the covered bridges, so a lot of people come out here and see the covered bridges, but they don't want to just drive around to see the covered bridges. They want to stop. Maybe they want to stop at Marianne's Chocolates to get chocolate, or they want to stop at a farmers' market or the apple orchard to get apples and ciders. It just makes sense. If you're doing a tour, or even if you're doing a winery tour, you're not going to go just go to a winery. Usually, you want to stop somewhere else in between. We kind of fit into that, I think."

The orchard, located at 4749 Dibble Rd., is open for the season, marking the return of apples, cider, fresh cookies, pies, cider donuts, homemade soups, sandwiches, cider slushees and pumpkin lattes, as well as jams, jellies, syrup and coffee.

"We have the unpasteurized cider, we have apples and the apples change based on the season," Diehl said. "It's always a rolling change of apples. We

have a full bakery. Bakery wise, we have apple pies. We'll start pumpkin pies in September. We do have Asian pears, so we will do an Asian pear pie, too. When our grapes come in, we'll have grape pies, as well. We do apple cider donuts. Those are really good and sugar donuts. There's so much that we have as far as food."

"On the menu on the weekends, we usually do pulled pork mac and cheese sandwiches," Diehl continued. "That's real popular out here. We have wraps, grilled cheese, soup. There's a lot. You can come out here and have lunch. You can make a date out of it. You can do a birthday party out here. We're an experience."

Brant's Apple Orchard is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday until the end of November for visitors looking for a meal, cider, a walk along the trails or a peaceful conversation along the pond while kids frolic on the playground on the 80-acre property that is home to 3,000 apple trees.

The orchard boasts more than 20 varieties of apples, with each becoming available as they ripen.

"We'd like to say that we take care of our grounds really well," Diehl said. "We want the perfect apple. Basically, we're doing a lot of pruning to try to get that nice, big firm apple that people want to pick out of the bins here. We also don't

SEE BRANT'S PAGE 47



PHOTO BY BOB ETTINGER

Brant's Apple Orchard offers a playground for children to laugh and play.

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Lake Metroparks offers family-friendly fall fun

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – Autumn begins Saturday, Sept. 23, and for those who're looking to make the most of the area's outdoors while the weather holds, Lake Metroparks has plenty of activities and attractions for the whole family.

Lake Metroparks Farmpark in Kirtland is going to be hosting three weekend, fall-themed events this year, according to John Vennen, Lake Metroparks social media and public relations manager.

The popular corn maze is opening Friday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 15. This year, children are tasked with a video game-themed scavenger hunt in the maze. The maze is included in Farmpark admission.

Regular Farmpark admission or membership applies for weekend events at the Farmpark.

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 and 24, is Apple Harvest Weekend at the Farmpark.

During Apple Harvest Weekend visitors can watch traditional harvest activities and discover how apple butter and cider are made and take a tour of the Johnny Appleseed Trail. The family can also enjoy harvest activities, including an apple-themed craft both days. The following week, Saturday and Sunday, Sept 30 and Oct. 1, is Horsepower Weekend at the Farmpark.

Saturday will focus on agricultural fieldwork. Visitors can watch the progression of agricultural technology all in one field. Draft-animal power to modern cabbed tractors will demonstrate a wide variety of implements. Visitors will have the opportunity to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The corn maze at Lake Metroparks Farmpark is open Friday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 15.

SEE METROPARKS PAGE 46

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METROPARKS

From
Page
45

try their hands at plowing behind one of Farmpark's draft teams.

On Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m., shift gears into high and enjoy Farmpark's annual Car and Truck Show (weather permitting).

Corn and Pumpkin Weekend is set for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7 and 8.

Children can challenge one another to a game of pumpkin bowling and make handmade corn husk dolls and paint pumpkins (\$3) to take home. This will be also be the last chance to get lost in the three-acre corn maze.

Lake Metroparks Farmpark is located at 8800 Euclid Chardon Road, Kirtland.

For those who want to experience the natural beauty of the great outdoors in Lake County, particularly as the leaves change in early autumn, there are several metroparks with a lot to offer.

"We have different programs to give people a chance to explore our parks and providing a chance for a greater appreciation for the access Lake Metroparks provides to natural resources in Lake County," Vennen said. "The views provide visitors with exceptional sights of the fall foliage."

Chagrin River Park offers just under three miles of trails, with pockets of wetland and mature forest that can be quite a sight when the leaves turn. It's also an excellent location for birdwatching.

The park is on the Willoughby/Eastlake border and has three entrances: east at 3100 Reeves Road, west at 1000 Rural Drive and south at 37699 Erie Road.

Chapin Forest Reservation offers one of the best scenic overlooks in Lake County along Lucky Stone Loop Trail. Hiking in this beautifully-forested park will take the visitors to Sharon

Conglomerate ledges, from which Lake Erie and the Cleveland skyline are visible on a clear day.

Chapin Forest Reservation has two entrances in Kirtland, 9938 Chillicothe Road and 10381 Hobart Road.

Girdled Road Reservation offers great hiking, birdwatching and leafing as well. Audubon Ohio has designated this park as an Important Bird Area. The Buckeye Trail, marked with light blue blazes on trees, runs through the park.

North and south entrances to Girdled Road Reservation are 12840 Girdled Road and 12926 Radcliffe Road in Concord Township, as well as one at Skok Meadow, 12415 Concord Hambden Road.

Another Audubon-designated Important Bird Area, Hell Hollow Wilderness Area in Thompson Township has a high cliff top with a loop trail and 262 timber steps that provide a dramatic descent to the creek valley. The hundred-foot-deep ravine was carved thousands of years ago by Paine Creek.

The entrance to Hell Hollow Wilderness Area is at 14437 Leroy Center Road, Thompson Township.

Indian Point Park offers some great hiking and sightseeing as well, though several closed roads in the area make access a little tricky, involving some detours – check lakemetroparks.com/parks-trails/indian-point-park for more information.

This park includes a Native American site is commonly called a "fort," but which has a much more interesting and opaque history that's only slowly beginning to unwind. The site is located on top of a steep-sided hogback ridge at the confluence of Paine Creek and the Grand River. There are two manmade earthen mounds there and, in prehistoric times, the small site as surrounded by a log palisade.

Indian Point Park has three entrances: 12951 Seeley Road, 13165 Seeley Road and 12701 Seeley Road, all in Leroy Township.

For anyone looking to enjoy the area's natural beauty and have a little outdoor fun before the weather turns, Lake Metroparks has plenty to offer.



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BRANT'S

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mind the small apples because they go into cider, too. Apart from other apple orchards in the area, we don't pasteurize our cider."

The Diehls – including Jennifer, her husband Brian and sons Nick and Josh – are celebrating a decade as owners of the orchard.

"We weren't looking to get in the apple business," Diehl said. "We saw in the paper that (the Brant's) were selling it and we

knew that it was a staple within the community. We wanted it to stay in the community. We wanted it to stay Brant's Apple Orchard, and we knew that we could expand it a little bit more. We had the potential to see that it can grow, basically, so we were looking for a business to buy. We were not looking for apples."

Diehl enjoys visiting with the people who have made it a tradition to visit the orchard.

"It's probably the people, the customers," Diehl said. "Most of the people, if you ask them why they like to come out to Brant's, it's a happy fun place. It's a fun place to bring their family. I like to see the kids running around playing."

The staff at Brant's is always happy to serve.

"We do train our staff and we ask them why they want to work here," Diehl said. "They'll say it's because it's a fun, happy place. In our training, we say, 'Hey, the reason why you want to work here is it is a fun happy place. You've got to create that atmosphere and that experience for the customer. We do a lot of training with our staff. Hopefully, they like doing that.'"



The pond provides a peaceful place to sit and have a conversation at Brant's Apple Orchard.



PHOTOS BY BOB ETINGER
Bryanna Rudolph serves drinks to a customer at Brant's Apple Orchard.

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YORKIES

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Schepner's previous life as a sales rep has helped her in operating Yorkie's.

"It is, it isn't (like being a sales rep)," Schepner said. "You're still selling yourself. You're still selling yourself to the community, to these employees. I have to get them to like me, to want to work for me. I like teenagers, so that's not a problem for me. I say, 'Oh, I have 26 teenage employees.' Others are like, 'God, that's awful.' It's not. I like them. It is hard to work around schedules, though."

Yorkie's is staffed almost exclusively by teenagers and college kids.

"I don't have any adults per se," Schepner said. "I do have one gal, Hailee (Lipinski) Miller, who has been here since my parents sold it. She's my son's age. She's just turned 26 and she does have a real job, too, but she's amazing. She's very helpful."

The shop, over time, has also

become a must-visit location for those visiting both the Ohio and Pennsylvania sides Pymatuning Lake.

"I think, in our case, we have become somewhat of a destination," Schepner said. "They bring their dogs and their kids and they meet people here. Seriously, they meet people in the parking lot and they'll hang out and so the nice big parking lot, I'm sure, is helpful. They have space to sit down and hang out with friends. It is a great location for all the campsites over in Ohio and then back here over Linesville, even Espyville. Between the good products and good customer service and it's fun, I mean, ice cream's notoriously fun, (it's what helped us make it 30 years)."

There are two distinctly different crowds that visit the shop.

"It's funny, on the weekend, it's like 90 percent tourists and about 8 p.m. Sunday night, when they start going back to

Pittsburgh and Cleveland or Youngstown, the locals come in," York said. "It's very obvious, but it's worked out. They support us during the week and the tourists support us on weekends."

Yorkie's could be around for many more years.

"I don't see anything slowing down," Schepner said. "Even during COVID, we stayed very busy. Well, we were lucky because I had teenage employees and they still wanted to work and no one else was open. We were the only place for people to get takeout out here. We did a lot of food, more than normal. Normally, it was more ice cream than food, but then, that year, a lot of people would come and get takeout dinners."

It was an opportunity to win over members of the community who had yet to become patrons.

"Especially locals, just because of takeout, because nothing else was opened out here," Schepner said. "I live in Meadville. We knew what was open that way, and we try to support everybody. We would get takeout and I was very thankful

that people out here supported us, too."

The surrounding communities have been supportive in other ways, too.

"I'm certainly very proud the local people let their kids come and work for me because they work hard," Schepner said. "They do their work. My employees work really hard. It's not an easy job. There's a lot of lifting, a lot of moving, a lot of on your feet. I'm proud of my kids and then the community. It always amazes me still. I grew up out here, but even my youngest son, who's still here working with me some days, we're like, 'It's crazy.' I'm very thankful that they support us like they do."

Without the support of the local communities and visitors to the area, Yorkie's would never have survived three decades.

"I would just thank the community for its support, most importantly, and my employees," Schepner said. "I have a lot of service guys that helped me out and I can call them at the drop of a hat. My parents. My dad's here every day doing something."



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TRAILS PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE TO RIDE BIKES

ASHTABULA COUNTY - Ashtabula County is fortunate to be part of the Western Reserve Greenway Trail, which spans 27 miles in Ashtabula County, with an additional 17 miles in Trumbull County.

That's more than 40 continuous miles of paved trail for people who love to bike, whether it's a new, relaxing hobby or an intensive ride for exercise.

Biking is an activity just about anyone can pick up, from seasoned athletes looking for another way to stay in shape, a person just looking for a low-stress form of exercise or someone who wants to enjoy a leisurely ride through Ashtabula County on one of the trails.

Thanks to the Western Reserve Greenway Trail, biking has become a way for people to improve their health and experience some of the natural beauty the county has to offer.

The trail in Ashtabula County begins next to West Avenue across from the Ohio Department of Transportation garage in the City of Ashtabula and then heads south below Orwell. From there, the trail proceeds to Champion, just north of Warren.

The Western Reserve Greenway is the former Penn Central right-of-way, which was closed in April 1976. The line at one time was also known as the USR A 714 rail line. The right-of-way, which served industry then, is now set to help serve the recreational needs of Ashtabula County.

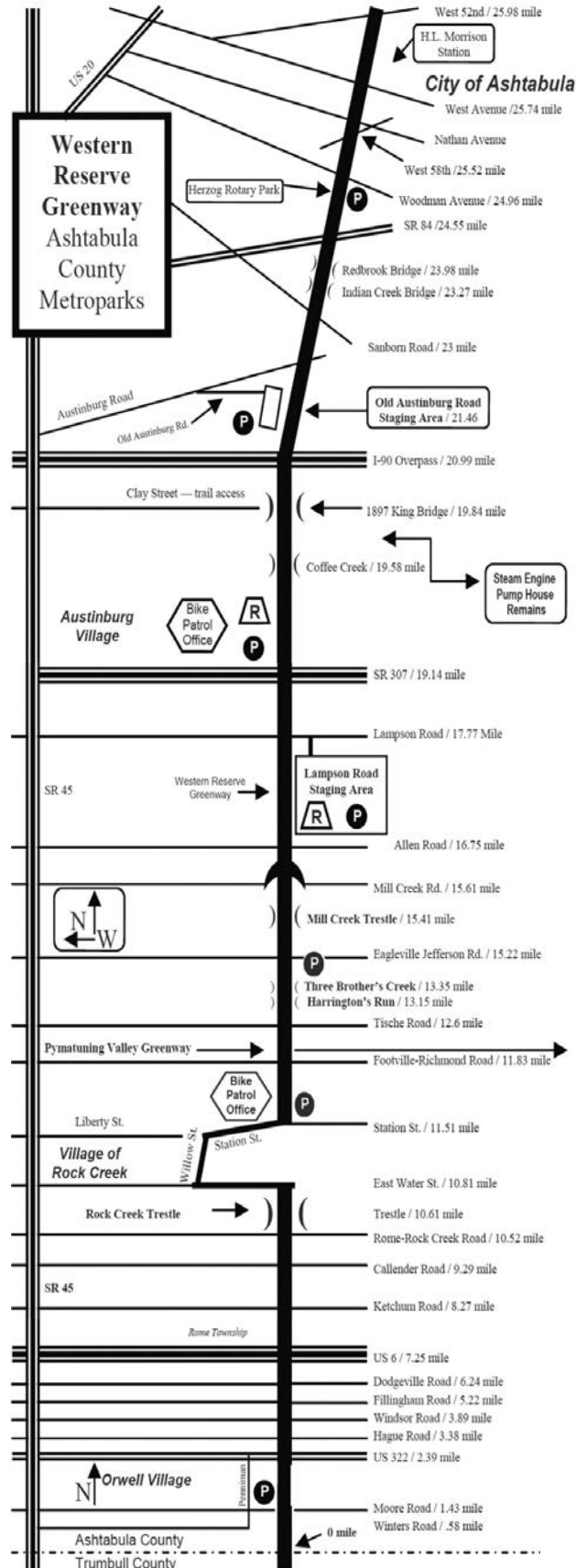
The Greenway Trail provides the initial "spine" of a trail in Ashtabula County. The trail essentially splits the county right down the the middle, and in the future, additional trails will be able to tie into it.

In 2021, the trail was extended in Ashtabula City. This North Shore Trail extends through the small port city for several miles before reaching Lake Erie.

Another trail in Ashtabula County is the trail that winds through Geneva State Park. At two miles long, this trail is shorter but provides its own pleasures. This trail in Geneva-on-the-Lake goes right along the water.

Directions to Western Reserve Greenway trailheads and parking lots:

- **HERZOG ROTARY PARK:** Herzog Rotary Park is located on west side of Woodman Avenue in Ashtabula Township. It is approximately 3/4 of a mile south of State Route 20 or 1/4 of a mile north of State Route 84.
- **MUNSON HILL STATION:** Munson Hill Station is located off of Old Austinburg Road, just south of the intersection of Munson Hill Road and Ashtabula - Austinburg Road in Saybrook Township. The intersection of Munson Hill and Austinburg Road is approximately 1.5 miles east of State Route 45.
- **AUSTINBURG PARKING LOT:** Austinburg Parking Lot is on the Western Reserve Greenway in Austinburg Township. It is located on the north side of State Route 307, a quarter mile east of State Route 45.
- **LAMPSON ROAD STAGING AREA:** Lampson Road Staging Area is on the Western Reserve Greenway in Austinburg Township. It is located on the south side of Lampson Road, a half mile east of State Route 45. Lampson Road is 1.25 miles south of State Route 307. From the I-90 exit at Rt. 45, head south 2.3 miles.
- **ROCK CREEK RUNAROUND:** Rock Creek Runaround is located in the Village of Rock Creek. Take State Route 45 to the flashing light at the intersection of Main Street. Travel approximately a half mile east of State Route 45 to the intersections of Jefferson St. (Footville-Richmond) and turn left. Make a quick right onto Liberty Street and continue around the curve on Station Street. Parking is available along Railroad Street.
- **ORWELL PARKING:** Orwell Parking is located on U.S. Route 322 (Mayfield Road) in Orwell. From the intersection of State Route 45 and U.S. Route 322, head east on U.S. Route 322 approximately 1 mile. Located just past Penniman Road on south side of the street. Parking is next to Welded Tubes, Inc.



TRAILS PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE TO RIDE BIKES

PETER ALLEN

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to the public for lunch and dinner and brunch on Sundays.

Opened in 2017, this restaurant and inn has a long history. The building itself is of great historical significance, originally built by famous architect Willis Smith in 1821 for Dr. Peter Allen, Kinsman's first medical doctor. The building is listed in the Library of Congress noted for its federalist design, with the original designs drawn by Willis Smith preserved there.

Katherine Dodd, Peter Allen Inn and Event Center general manager, has been working at the inn since the beginning, starting in 2017 as a service manager. Quickly after, she moved up to general manager, and has been with the place ever since.

"We were growing pretty fast at the start," Dodd explained. "In 2017, we opened as just an inn, but in 2018, we added the full kitchen and tavern and the patio."

"The community wanted to come to the facility on a regular basis," Dodd explained of the addition of the tavern. "A lot of home kitchens are bigger than what we originally had."

The additions kept coming as the business grew and became more successful. In 2021, Peter Allen Inn added an event kitchen, specifically for catering special events held at the facility. Even now, the inn is making upgrades, with work being done this year to expand. A stone cottage is being restored on the grounds to house more rooms, including a very special honeymoon suite, and day spa.

The restoration of the historical building is at the very heart of what the Peter Allen Inn does. The owners, Richard and Rhonda Thompson, bought the property in 2008 at an auction, unsure initially what to do with it. Eventually, they started the Richard and Rhonda Thompson Foundation, specifically to restore these local historical buildings to their original glory.

Starting construction in 2012, the Thompsons worked hard to

bring back the decaying house to its original state. Fortunately, they were able to work from the initial designs from the architect Willis Smith that were housed in the Library of Congress. The Thompsons were meticulous in their restoration, only adding modern furnishings for comfort level.

"It keeps us remembering our history," Dodd explained of the details for the restoration. "It's important to remember where we come from, especially these small towns."

Currently, only three of the numerous buildings that famous architect Willis Smith designed still stand in Kinsman. The Thompsons saw a vital opportunity to save one of these historical buildings, and provide something for the community to enjoy.

Now, the Peter Allen Inn and Event Center is a hub of activity, both for visitors and community members alike. With numerous fun events throughout the year, guests can keep coming back to enjoy something new.

In the fall and winter, the facility hosts several dinner theater parties that have become very popular with the locals. Additionally, they host special culinary tours, in which they select wine or spirits from specific regions of the world, and the chef pairs food that is popular in the same region.

For the holidays, the Peter Allen Inn and Event Center hosts a Thanksgiving buffet, brunch with Santa and a special Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" dinner theater.

There's a little something for everyone at the Peter Allen Inn and Event Center. Whether you are hosting a bridal shower, looking for a comfy place to stay, or hungry for a great meal, they have everything you need to enjoy a relaxing time at the facility. Check out all they have to offer and get more information at their website peteralleninn.com.

The Peter Allen Inn and Event Center is located at 8581 Williamsfield Kinsman Rd., in Kinsman. They are open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. You can contact them online at their website peteralleninn.com or at the inn by calling (330) 355-2100.

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REGION

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You can see current wine and food offerings as well as future events on their website at thegatehousewinery.com.

Further east is Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery, located at 12005 Conneaut Lake Rd., in Conneaut Lake, PA. Established February 1982, the winery has been growing ever since. They added a distillery to the facility in September 2013, making it the first distillery in Lake Erie Region of northwestern Pennsylvania since Prohibition. They offer over 20 varieties of wine and liquor, including sparkling wines, raspberry dessert wine, ports, bourbon, vodka and more.

Visitors are welcome to come in and taste wines for free, tour the cellar and browse the gift shop. Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Check out their website at conneautcellars.com for a current list of products and information on tours.

A newer addition to the region is Nucleus Mead, located at 158 W. Erie St., Linesville, PA. Not technically a winery or a brewery, this meadery produces an alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey, water and yeast. Produced with honey from their own beehives, Nucleus Mead offers a variety of flavors of mead that change throughout the year. Their best-selling mead is their Ka-Bluey, a mead made with blueberries and citra hops.

You can visit Nucleus Mead during their open hours, 3-9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 2-9 p.m. on Saturday. Check out their Facebook page at facebook.com/nucleusmead to see current offerings and find out more.

There's something for everyone when it comes to getting a drink in the Pymatuning Lake region. Check out the interesting and unique places this region has to offer.

KAYAK

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and sunsets on the water.”

“You definitely get to see old industry,” Hart continued. “You see different types of boats. In Ashtabula, there a lot of minks, Bald Eagles and deer.”

Pymatuning Rentals, 1 Gibson St., Jamestown, Pa., operates on the Upper Shenango Water Trail between Pymatuning Lake and Shenango Lake.

“It’s all between knee-deep and chest deep and there are no rapids,” Seaborn said. “There is lots of different wildlife and fauna. Whether you’re a nature buff or never been outdoors, it’s quite an experience.”

Caution should be used, even when conditions aren’t perfect.

“An adventure can go a little too far,” Hart said. “If you’re not in tune with the weather reports or river conditions, a lot can happen. For example, it could be a 60- or 70-degree day, but the water is still cold or it has recently rained a lot and the Grand River is moving at 6-7,000 cubic feet per second. What you think is a nice float is one, until you flip over and are carried down the river.”

Renting a kayak is as easy as making a phone call.

“With us, it’s very easy to book online or call in and get a spot reserved,” Hart said. “We just take your basic information. You just show up and we’ll give you a brief tour of where you’re going, tell you how to get there and how to operate the equipment.”

To book a trip with Harbor Yak Outfitters by visiting the website, harboryak.com, or calling 440-990-0161. To book a kayak with Pymatuning rentals and Information Center, call or text 724-877-6104.

“It’s always best to call and make a reservation,” Seaborn said. “With us, it’s free to get on the list for the day so we don’t sell out.”



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RAILROAD

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train,” Morrell said. “It’s been there since 1964. It’s always in need of some sort of work.”

A staircase was added to the caboose attached to the Bessemer, which has stood outside the museum since 1964.

“Cliff (Bowers) even took it upon himself to make another staircase, identical to the one that’s on the on the back end of the caboose, and now people can walk in one end and walk out the other and they don’t have to make a U turn and come back,” Morrell said.

Improvements have also been made to the engine.

“We also had him working on the engine and he replaced the windows on it this last year so that makes it a whole lot nicer there, too,” Lemmo said. “We’ve been making improvements right along.”

Inside the museum, a display memorializes a member who had passed away.

“We also have a new display out there in memory of a former member, Mike Clancy, it’s in one of the LED cases,” Morrell said. “It’s from his home model railroad. His wife was nice enough to donate the stuff to us and we created a display out of it.”

The improvements have been well received.

“Everybody’s been commenting about how much nicer the place looks,” Lemmo said. “It’s cleaner. Also, last fall and winter, when we were closed, we put LED lights in five of our display cabinets. We’re probably going to get some more done this year. It makes a whole difference in what the display case looks like. Eventually, down the line, we’d like to get them all done. When you go back and look, you can see how much nicer it looks and you can’t even see the lights. This guy did such a nice job.”

The museum will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2024.

“This was actually the dream of two local guys, and (Jack) Phipps and (Eugene) Lambert,” Morrell said. “They were the ones who started it. They were the ones who really pushed to get this museums started.”

Each year the museum opens for a special group.

“One of the things we still do two every year is the kindergartners still come here,” Lemmo said. “They’re the first ones every year to come to the museum. They come in May, right before we open up and then. This last year we had like 140 of them come through. We have different groups all through season on the days we’re closed so that way we can just do the group.”

The city’s residents have a connection to the railroad because the railroads made a point of having a connection with the city.

“Remember that the Nickel Plate was a family-oriented place

to work,” Morrell said. “They encouraged people to start clubs because used to print a magazine every month called the Nickel Plate Magazine, and it was centered sometimes on things which they thought people might want to know how it cost the railroad to run. They had baseball teams, they had sewing clubs, cooking clubs, and they also gave out safety awards. People who worked for the Nickel Plate were part of the family and that that lasted a long time.”

Nearly all of the displays in the museum have been donated by residents of Conneaut.

“I’m thrilled,” Lemmo said. “I think all of us are every time we get something new, we all Google it and kind of watch it and want to see it and want to see where we can put it and we’re trying to figure out how we can put it in here and make it work.”



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ASHTABULA COUNTY PARKS & BEACHES

• **LAKE SHORE PARK**, LOCATED AT LAKE ROAD AND MANOLA (EAST OF SR 11) IN ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP: Set in lush vegetation and rolling hills with abundant natural wildlife, Lake Shore Park is a refreshing, relaxing place for the whole family. More than 100 picnic tables, many charcoal grills and the clean restrooms are close to the four spacious and scenic pavilions. Playground, sand beach, boat launch, and the site of disc golf. Kid friendly.

• **CEDERQUIST PARK**, LOCATED IN ASHTABULA: Hiking trail through the wooded area, access to river.

• **CONNEAUT TOWNSHIP PARK**, LOCATED AT LAKE ROAD AND GROVE STREET IN CONNEAUT: Sand beach with lifeguards, concession stand, picnic pavilions, playground, basketball, tennis courts, volleyball, soccer, and the Conneaut Lighthouse Cruise-in every Thursday night from Mid-May through September, featuring classic and antique cars. Located on Lake Erie at Lake Road and Grove Street, west of SR 7. Hours: Dawn to dusk. Free, kid-friendly.

• **GENEVA STATE PARK**, LOCATED AT 4499 PADANARUM RD. IN GENEVA: Seasonal hunting for small game, waterfowl and deer. Fishing for walleye, bass, salmon, steelhead, yellow perch can be done via charter boats and from the shoreline or break-wall. Three-mile hiking trail, sand beach, picnic pavilions, marina, freshwater marshes and estuaries located along the lake. Also the location of a state park resort and conference center. Located west of SR 534. Open dawn - dusk, cottages and campground seasonal. Accepts credit cards. Kid- and pet-friendly.

• **GENEVA TOWNSHIP PARK**, LOCATED AT SR 531 AND AUSTIN ROAD IN GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE: Pavilions, volleyball courts, horseshoe pit, concession stand, playground. No lifeguards. Concerts Tuesdays in summer. Open 9 a.m. to dusk.

• **INDIAN TRAILS PARK**, LOCATED IN ASHTABULA/PLYM-



The beach at Conneaut Township Park is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. FILE PHOTO

OUTH TOWNSHIPS: Home to the longest covered bridge in the United States, the Smolen-Gulf Bridge. Overlooking pavilion.

• **POINT PARK**, LOCATED ON WALNUT STREET IN ASHTABULA: Overlooks the Ashtabula Harbor, river, coal conveyor, shipping docks, lift bridge. Visit the historic Hulett Ore Unloader on display and the Merchant Marine Memorial.

• **PYMATUNING STATE PARK**, PARK OFFICE LOCATED AT LAKE ROAD SOUTH OF SR 85 IN ANDOVER: Picnic shelters, boating (10HP limit), swimming, fishing, hiking, cottages, camping and beach. Located east of Andover. Open seasonally, daily. Contact about permit hunting areas.

• **SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP PARK**, LOCATED AT SR 531, ONE MILE WEST OF SR 45, IN ASHTABULA/SAYBROOK: Pavilions,

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ASHTABULA COUNTY PARKS & BEACHES

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• **WALNUT BEACH, LOCATED AT WALNUT BOULEVARD AND LAKE AVENUE IN ASHTABULA:** Offers concession stand, tennis, basketball and volleyball court. Plank walkway to beach. Nature trail through wetlands area and sand dunes. Lifeguards until 6 p.m. Kid-friendly.

ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS

• **WESTERN RESERVE GREENWAY:** This beautiful, 27.5-mile long, 340-acre paved trail is the longest link in the proposed 110-mile Great Ohio Lake to River Greenway. The completely handicapped accessible Western Reserve Greenway is open for cycling, hiking, rollerblading, cross country, running, wildlife viewing, skiing, and snowmobiling. Bike fix-it stations and restrooms are strategically located throughout this newly resurfaced premium trail. The North Shore Trail extends the trail 4.2 miles more to Ashtabula Harbor and Lake Erie. A map of the trail is available at www.ashtabulametroparks.com.

• **HARPERSFIELD COVERED BRIDGE METROPARK:** 53 acres, 1101 Harpersfield Rd. This beautiful park features the historic Harpersfield Covered Bridge, open to traffic and pedestrians. Steep bluffs, a waterfall, a streamside forest and picnic areas provide a spectacular backdrop for one of Ashtabula County's most popular parks. Access to the Grand River is available for boating and fishing. Amenities include covered bridge walks and overlooks, pavilions, restrooms, a play area and gift shop. This picturesque 53-acre park is located on Harpersfield Rd. south of SR 307 near SR 534.

• **GRAHAM ROAD COVERED BRIDGE BENSON FAMILY METROPARK:** .29 acres, 4646 Graham Rd., Pierpont Township. This

bridge was a casualty of the 1913 flood, but it was reconstructed and now located on donated property in Pierpont Township. The bridge is open to pedestrian visitors and may be reserved for small events.

• **LAMPSON RESERVOIR METROPARK:** 162 acres, 1259 Rt. 307, Jefferson Twp. This former municipal reservoir is now a wetland and woodland haven for waterfowl, birds and native plants along pristine Mill Creek. Enjoy fishing, birding, hiking and nature walks along two miles of primitive trails. A new observation platform and 340' fishing pier grace this idyllic park.

• **HATCHES CORNERS METROPARK:** 202 acres, 5467 Rt. 7, Monroe Twp. This large and diverse park offers visitors an opportunity to see rare plants and animals along a tributary to Conneaut Creek, headwater streams, through successional and wet forests, wetlands, meadows, recovering fields and three miles of primitive birding, equine and hiking trails with a parking area that can accommodate horse trailers.

• **FRIENDS OF CONNEAUT CREEK METROPARK:** 79 acres, 27 Blakeslee Rd., Conneaut. 3,000 feet of frontage on a gorgeous stretch of Conneaut Creek just off South Ridge Rd. near Rte. 7 offers stunning views, upland meadows, butterfly garden and pristine forests with a primitive trail, and future fishing and stream access along the creek. An ADA-accessible paved trail and a separate mowed trail are new features of this beautiful park.

• **CAMP PEET METROPARK:** 68 acres, 405 Creed Rd., Conneaut. The former youth group camp preserved by Clara D. Peet is now a Metropark with a mile of Conneaut Creek access, 1.5 miles of hiking trails, two pavilions and picnic area. Organized program groups can reserve overnight camping to enjoy spectacular bluffs, wildflowers,

See **PARKS** page 56

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ASHTABULA COUNTY PARKS & BEACHES

towering trees and pristine forests along with vernal pools and scenic views which include the adjacent Creek Road Covered Bridge.

• **EYRING WETLANDS METROPARK:** 52 acres, 906 Windsor Mechanicsville Rd., Austinburg Township. This recently expanded park features constructed wetlands and varied wetland habitats with wildflowers, plentiful bird and waterfowl species and hiking trails around and among the multiple shallow ponds and seeps. The new parking lot, trail and signage provides easy public access for this metropark are now open as of 2017.

• **RED BROOK METROPARK:** 146 Acres, 4338 Lake Rd., Saybrook Twp. This former country club and golf course is a work in progress. This park has three miles of paved trails, beautiful forests, meadows and floodplain protecting two miles of Red Brook. As a public park

and nature preserve, it is just steps away from Lake Erie. Red Brook will have a sledding hill, a favorite running and walking route, and will be a haven for fishing, neighborhood picnics, and birding hikes. Winter sports will also include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snow biking.

• **INDIAN MOUND METROPARK:** 178 acres, Conneaut. This park will provide public access and trails from downtown Conneaut to Conneaut Creek and celebrates the heritage of an abutting Indian mound.

• **TURKEY CREEK METROPARK** - 602 acres, Conneaut. This newly protected property forms the easternmost section of Lake Erie shoreline. Turkey Creek is now a Metroparks preserve with 225 acres of wooded wetlands, rare species of plants and wildlife with three miles of Turkey Creek, an outstanding trout fishing stream.

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BRIDGE

From Page 22

- 12-12:25 p.m. - Walnut Hill Cloggers at Barnard Pavilion
- 12-3 p.m. - Bigfoot by the Barnard Pavilion
- 12 p.m. - Parade lineup at Jefferson Area High School
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix performance by the antique engines area
- 1 p.m. - Parade steps off
- 1-4 p.m. - 1890 tours at the Jefferson Depot
- 1:20 p.m. - Parade arrives at Fairgrounds
- 1:45 p.m. - Troll judging at the Barnard Pavilion
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix performance by the antique engines area
- 3:30-5 p.m. - Kings of Revelry at the Grandstands
- 5 p.m. - Festival closes

Sunday, Oct. 15

- 9 a.m. to noon - Pancake Breakfast at the Expo Building
- 10 a.m. - Festival Opens/Craft Buildings open
- 10 a.m. - Kids' activities begin.
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Antique Engine Show.
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Romick Railway rides at the milking stand by MAC Building
- 10-11 a.m. - Church service by Eagleville Bible Church
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - John and Marian King as Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln at the Log Cabin
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. - Chainsaw Chix by the antique engines
- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Northeasterly Winds Woodwind Quartet in the Expo Building
- 12-3 p.m. - Bigfoot by the Barnard Pavilion
- 12-2 p.m. - Earnest T Band
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix by the antique engines
- 1-4 p.m. - 1890 tours at the Jefferson Depot
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix by the antique engines
- 3-5 p.m. - Mitch and Melissa Acoustic Duo
- 5 p.m. - Festival closes

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GRAPE

From
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it back. So far, at least four bands will be taking part.

A new feature this year is The Little Roaming Railroad, which will give kids and adults rides in town.

Kelly said it was added as part of the JAMBoree's effort to add more attractions.

"We always try to improve the festival, and that's one way of improving it," he said.

Kelly said a "huge inflatable laser tag" is also new, and will likely be on the north end of Route 534 during the JAMBoree.

People get inside the huge inflatable and play laser tag, which Kelly said is "pretty fun."

He is also excited about the entertainment.

"We're bringing in national entertainment again," he said. "It's a good time this year."

He thinks people will really enjoy Confederate Railroad, which he said had a lot of hits in its heyday.

"They're still played on country radio today," he said

Kelly is also thrilled about the Rod Stewart Experience.

"If you look at his picture in our brochure, he really does look and put on a good show like Rod Stewart does," he said of the show's performer, Steve Bobbitt.

Kelly noted that Kavan puts on a "true, good Elvis experience."

"He's won awards on the national level," he said, saying the audience will love him.

Kelly noted Rick K and the Allnighters is a 10-piece band and "put on a heck of a show" with songs from across the decades.

"If you want to come and be entertained all night, you've definitely got great entertainment," he said.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Sponsored by "Kinetic by Windstream"

10 a.m. Welcome by JAMBoree President Brian Kelly. Blessing of the Festival by Father Daniel Finnerty of the Assumption Church in Geneva.

10:10 a.m. Introduction of Grape JAMBoree Spokesperson, Jeff Tanchak, Morning Meteorologist from Cleveland 19 News. Assisted by Brian Kelly

10:15 a.m. The Red Hackle Pipe and Drums of Cleveland. A unique way to kick off the Grape JAMBoree. This international group of skilled bagpipers and drummers is sure to entertain you.

11 a.m. Karate Demonstration presented by Madison Combined Martial Arts

11:45 a.m. Youngster Grape Stomping - Come join in or cheer on your favorite purple-footed grape stomper. Five lucky contestants UNDER the age of 12 will be chosen to participate. Sign-up begins at 11:15 a.m. behind the Main Stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

12:15 p.m. Grape Stomping. Five contestants will be drawn to compete. Sign-up begins at 11:45 a.m. behind the Main Stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

1:30 p.m. JAMBoree Parade - Part One Bands, Floats, and FUN! Get ready for the area's largest parade. Sponsored by Marous Brothers Construction

3 p.m. - Welcome & Plaque Presentation to the Honorary Parade Marshall, 2022 Geneva Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Michael Sanzotta.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

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3:10 p.m. Introduction of this year's Miss Grapette and her Court

3:20 p.m. Parade Awards

3:30 p.m. Baby Contest: 2 to 4 year olds Bring your baby in their grapey-ist costume to compete for the title of Senior Baby Grapette. Sign-up begins at 3 p.m. behind the Main Stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

5 p.m. Pie-Eating Contest Come see how fast contestants can devour a grape pie! Five lucky contestants will be chosen to participate. Sign-up begins at 4:30 p.m. behind the main stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

5:30 p.m. Mile Run - A great country band from southwestern Pa. kicking off this evening's entertainment.

7 p.m. The Rod Stewart Experience - Enjoy the sound and looks of Rod Stewart performed by Steve Bobbitt.

8:30 p.m. Confederate Railroad - Direct from Nashville, country at its finest. Come hear some of this groups top hits, including "Queen of Memphis" and "Trashy Women." You don't want to miss this group!

Sunday, Sept. 24

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Community Church Service on the Stage Sponsored by the United Methodist Church and the United Church

12 p.m. Baby Contest: Newborn through 23 months. Bring your baby in their grapey-ist costume to compete for the title of Junior Baby Grapette. Sign-up begins at 11:30 a.m. behind the Main Stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

12:45 p.m. Junior Grape Stomping - Come and join in or cheer on your favorite purple-footed grape stomper. Five contestants under the age of 18 will be chosen to participate. Sign-up begins at 12:15 p.m. behind the Main Stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

1:15 a.m. - Adult Grape Stomping - If you have wondered what it is like to stomp on some grapes, here is your chance. Open to adults 18 - 99 years old!! Sign-up begins at 12:45 p.m. behind the Main Stage. Sponsored by Century 21 Asa Cox Homes

2 p.m. JAMBoree Parade - Part Two, Floats, Bands, and Visiting Festival Queens from across Ohio. Sponsored by The Geneva Eagle's Aerie #2243

3:40 p.m. Welcome & Introduction of Festival Queens from all parts of Ohio

4:20 p.m. Parade Awards

4:30 p.m. Geneva GI's - We are proud to present Geneva's Image for your entertainment. Geneva High School's Show Choir - singing and dancing to popular songs from yesterday and today

5:15 p.m. Gospel Hour - Musical entertainment provided by the Worship Team from Eagleville Bible Church.

6:15 p.m. Kavan - Kavan is an internationally recognized Elvis Tribute Artist. He is known as the World's #1 Rock N' Roll Elvis He uses exact replicas of Elvis' original costumes in his authentic concert tribute.

7:45 p.m. Rick K and the Allnighters Let "America's Most Exciting Show Band," take you on a high-speed, cross-country tour of rock's greatest hits!



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COTTAGES

- 24 family cottages including 3 ADA accessible cabins - sleep six
- 24 basic cottages, sleep 4. Open from May 1 – Oct. 31
- The premium cottage also includes dishwasher, wood deck with gas grill, central air and a 3-person jetted tub.
- Family cottages include gas fireplaces and microwave ovens.
- All cottages are furnished with cable TV, outside grill, fire ring, linens, towels, and cooking/eating utensils.
- Reservations may be made up to one year in advance.
- Small beach is available for cottage guests
- Pets are permitted in select cottages, please call (866) 644-6727 for more information

CAMPING

- Retail store is open to the public during work hours.
- Basketball, volleyball courts as well as playgrounds are open.
- 331 campground sites have 20 or 30 amp electric hookups. The park also has 15 brand new full hook-up sites with 50 amp service
- The campground is now 100-percent reservable through the ODNR online and/or phone registration system
- 21 sites are non-electric
- Heated shower houses, flush toilets, laundry facilities
- Small beach for campers is located near the center of the campground.

BOATING

- 5 boat-launch ramps are situated around this 14,000-acre lake providing convenient access.
- 20 horsepower motor limit is in effect on the lake

FISHING AND HUNTING

Portions of the park are open to hunting activities and shore fishing, but it is important to know the areas where these activities are permitted.

Pymatuning is known for its fine walleye, musky, and crappie fishing and has the reputation of being one of the best fishing lakes in the state

- Anglers will also find good catches of black bass, bluegill and channel catfish
- Either an Ohio or Pennsylvania fishing license is required for boat fishing, while bank fishing requires a license from the applicable state

HIKING

Two miles of well-marked trails have been developed to give the nature enthusiast an opportunity to enjoy the area's abundant wild animal and plant life. A new trail has been added in the campground area that is a 1-mile loop.



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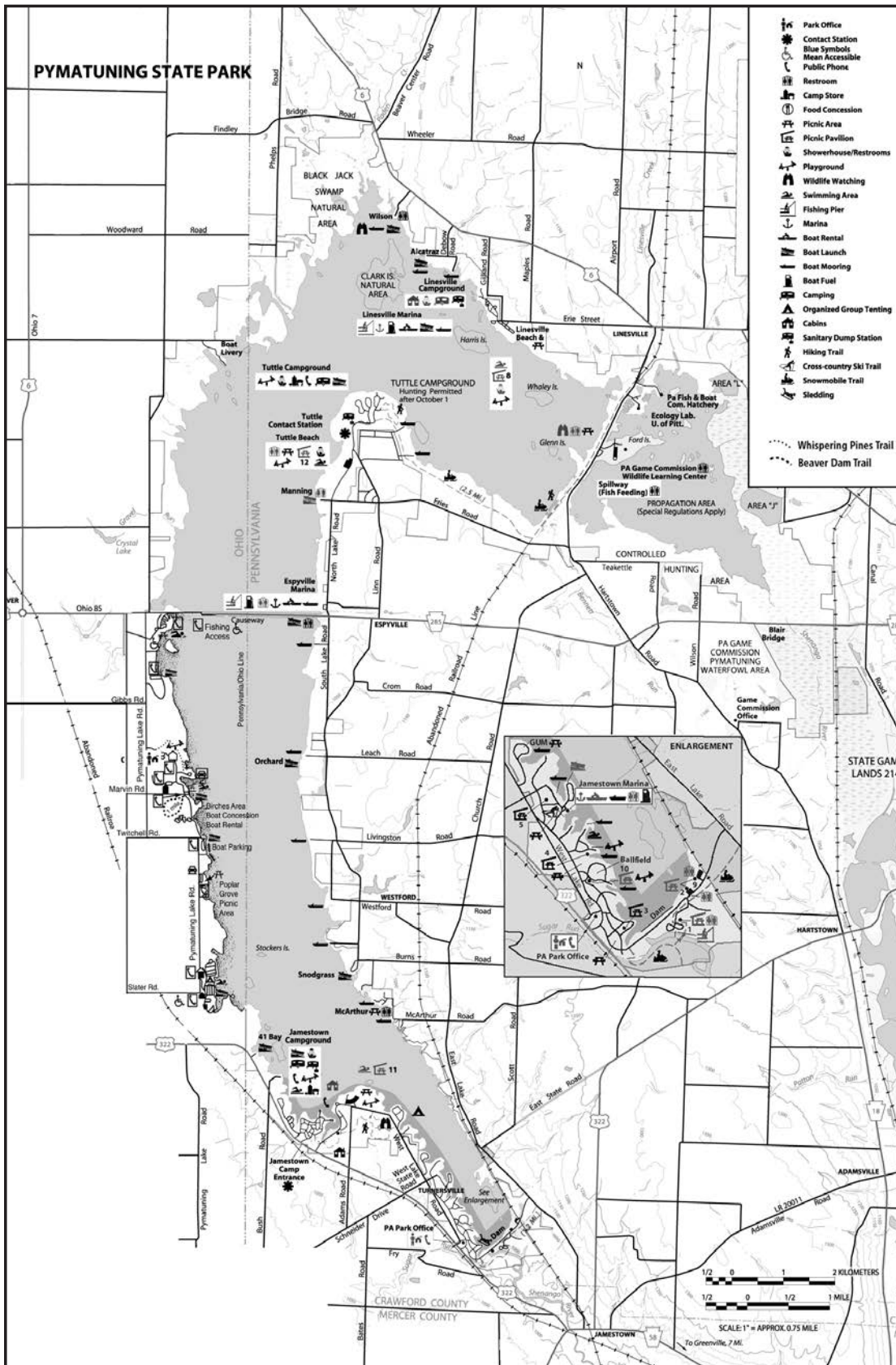
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PYMATUNING STATE PARK - OHIO RECREATIONAL INFORMATION



SWIMMING

- 350-foot swimming beach is located just south of the causeway.
- Water quality is closely monitored. Watch for signage to indicate any issues

PICNICKING

Picnic Shelters are available to make reservations. Waist-high charcoal grills are also placed at those areas as well as throughout the park to enjoy a meal outdoors.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

- The Grand River, a state wild and scenic river managed by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, is found north of the park off State Route 322 and State Route 6
- Within easy driving distance just across the Pennsylvania border, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission operates a fish hatchery and visitors' center near the town of Linesville
- Not far from the hatchery is a waterfowl museum with displays featuring native waterfowl and a viewing area that allows visitors to observe the nests of the bald eagles residing there
- Pennsylvania's Pymatuning State Park also invites visitors to enjoy its facilities on the eastern shore of the reservoir
- Do not forget to stop at the Pymatuning Spillway, famous as the place where "the ducks walk on the fish!" Each year, thousands of visitors stop to feed bread to the ducks and carp which crowd together in such numbers that the ducks stand on the carp to catch a tasty morsel.
- For more information on area attractions, visit the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau website or call (800) 337-6746.



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WINERIES

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The instructor, Dani Klein, is an art teacher from Stella's Art Gallery in Willoughby.

"Dani will teach you to paint, entertain you, and enjoy wine along the way," a description states.

The fee is \$30 per person or \$25 for children and young adults (12-20) OR for non-wine drinkers. Supplies will be included in the price as well as a glass of wine.

Call the winery at 440-298-9838 to sign up or visit Eventbrite to purchase tickets:

And for the music lovers, there is a Songs from the Silver Screen Dinner at Cask 307 at 7259 Warner Rd., Madison from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

"Join us for dinner and a show with movie favorites sung by Soprano, Julianna Gulenko & Co.," a news release states.

There will be a five-course dinner prepared by J & J catering. The cost is \$59.95 per person plus tax & gratuity including one drink with the performance and first course beginning at 6:30 PM. Advance tickets are required. People can get tickets on Eventbrite.

The menu is as follows: First Course - Phyllo Tartlets; Second Course - Harvest Flatbread; Third Course - Strawberry Lettuce Salad with Lemon-Poppyseed Dressing; Fourth Course - Pan-Seared Airline Chicken Breast with Herb Au Jus, Potato & Vegetable Hash; Fifth Course - Cheesecake.

The Old Firehouse Winery in Geneva-on-the-Lake offers these activities in the fall and into the winter:

—Nov. 22, 2023 - Jan. 1, 2024 - "The Great Wine Sale." Huge case discounts on two featured wines, ONLY at the Winery. (No Mail order)

—Nov. 24-26, Dec. 1-3 & 8-10, 2023 Fridays & Saturdays &

Sundays, (TENTATIVE DATES) Tannenbaum Trail. Receive a Christmas tree and collect ornaments to decorate it. Each person will also receive wine samples and appetizers. Advance registration only; buy tickets at: www.ohiowines.org or call 800-227-6972.

—Nov. 25 through Jan. 1, 2024. Friday, Saturday and Sundays - "Christmas Open House," Old Firehouse Winery, 5499 Lake Rd., Geneva-on-the-Lake. Special sales, snacks and prize drawings throughout the month. PH: 1-800-UNCORK-1. www.oldfirehousewinery.com info@oldfirehousewinery.com

—Dec. 15, 2023 - Jan. 1, 2024 - "Big Basket Blowout Sale." 20-percent off all in-stock wine gift baskets.

—Dec. 31, 2023 Sunday. "Firehouse Igloo Experience New Year's Eve." Enjoy the Ambiance of Lake Erie and dinner on New Year's Eve in one our seven lakefront Igloos. Reservations only for the IGLOOS and dinner, walk-ins welcome to tasting room. Come in early and stay late. Open until 1 a.m.

BROTHERS

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Other features include live music, an ever-expanding snack menu, gift cards, flights and samples.

Sutton believes in supporting local agriculture. All of their ingredients are locally sourced. The rum is aged in Pinot Noir barrels from M Cellars. Sutton also serves M Cellars' Rkatsiteli wine. Some of the beer comes from Double Wing. Scribblers Espresso is served to the coffee enthusiasts. The Blue Clarage corn used in their Blue Bourbon comes from Cool House Farms, near Toledo.

Seven Brothers Distillery is absolutely worth the stop on Route 307 food and drinks gauntlet.

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For more information at Fairport Harbor Heritage Foundation

Enjoy **Harbor Holidays** all over Fairport Harbor on Sat., Dec. 2!!

GEAUGA

From
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the Small Grandstand; a Pony Pulling Contest on 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Small Grandstand; the rooster crowing contest at 4 p.m. Sunday in the Small Arena; and a frog-jumping contest on 3 p.m. Monday in the Arena.

An apple pie auction takes place 1 p.m. Saturday.

Tractors of the Past are on display daily in the Antique Tractor Tent

The barns will be full, as the Junior Fair Youth continue to prepare their projects for display and sale.

The Junior Fair Small Animal Auction will take place 2:30 p.m. Friday in the Auction Tent, with a sale order of rabbits, chickens, turkeys and ducks.

The Large Animal Auction takes place at 4 p.m. Saturday, in the arena, with a sale order of dairy baskets, swine, meat goats, lambs and beef.

The fair has a Natural Resource Area that offers educational demonstrations and activities daily, such as youth fishing through the Division of Wildlife; "The Dogs That Make A Splash" with Buckeye Retrievers; "Taste of Maple" from the Maple Producers of NE Ohio; and "Monarch's on the move" by the Geauga Park District.

See the schedule at <https://www.geaugafair.com/natural-resource-area.html>.

The fairgrounds are open daily from 9 a.m. to midnight. The exhibit halls are open 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

On Monday, Sept. 4, Labor Day, exhibits close at 8 p.m.

The Secretary's Office is open 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. during fair week.

Learn more at <https://www.geaugafair.com>.



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WINE

From
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1

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Get your free mobile passports today at VisitAshtabulaCounty.com,



PHOTO BY DAWN BUBONIC
The Grape JAMboree returns to downtown Geneva on Sept. 23-24. The grape-themed costume contests at the Geneva Grape JAMboree always delight the crowd.

Save the date for these upcoming Ashtabula County events

Sept. 7-10: Thunder on the Strip - Geneva-on-the-Lake (<https://visitashtabulacounty.com/events/2023-thunder-on-the-strip-geneva-on-the-lake/>)

Sept. 9: Cask, Corks, & Forks - Grand River Valley (<https://visitashtabulacounty.com/events/2023-cask-corks-forks-multiple-winery-locations/>)

Sept. 16: Antique Engine Club Fall Show - Williamsfield (<https://visitashtabulacounty.com/events/2023-26th-annual-fall-show-ashtabula-county-antique-engine-club/>)

Sept. 23-24: Grape JAMboree - Geneva (<https://visitashtabulacounty.com/events/2023-geneva-grape-jamboree/>)

Month of October: Adult Trick or Treat Trail

Oct. 7-8: Brant's Fall Festival - Kingsville

Oct. 8: Harvest in the Harbor - Bridge Street, Ashtabula

Oct. 14-15: Covered Bridge Festival

Find a full list of events at VisitAshtabulaCounty.com.



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