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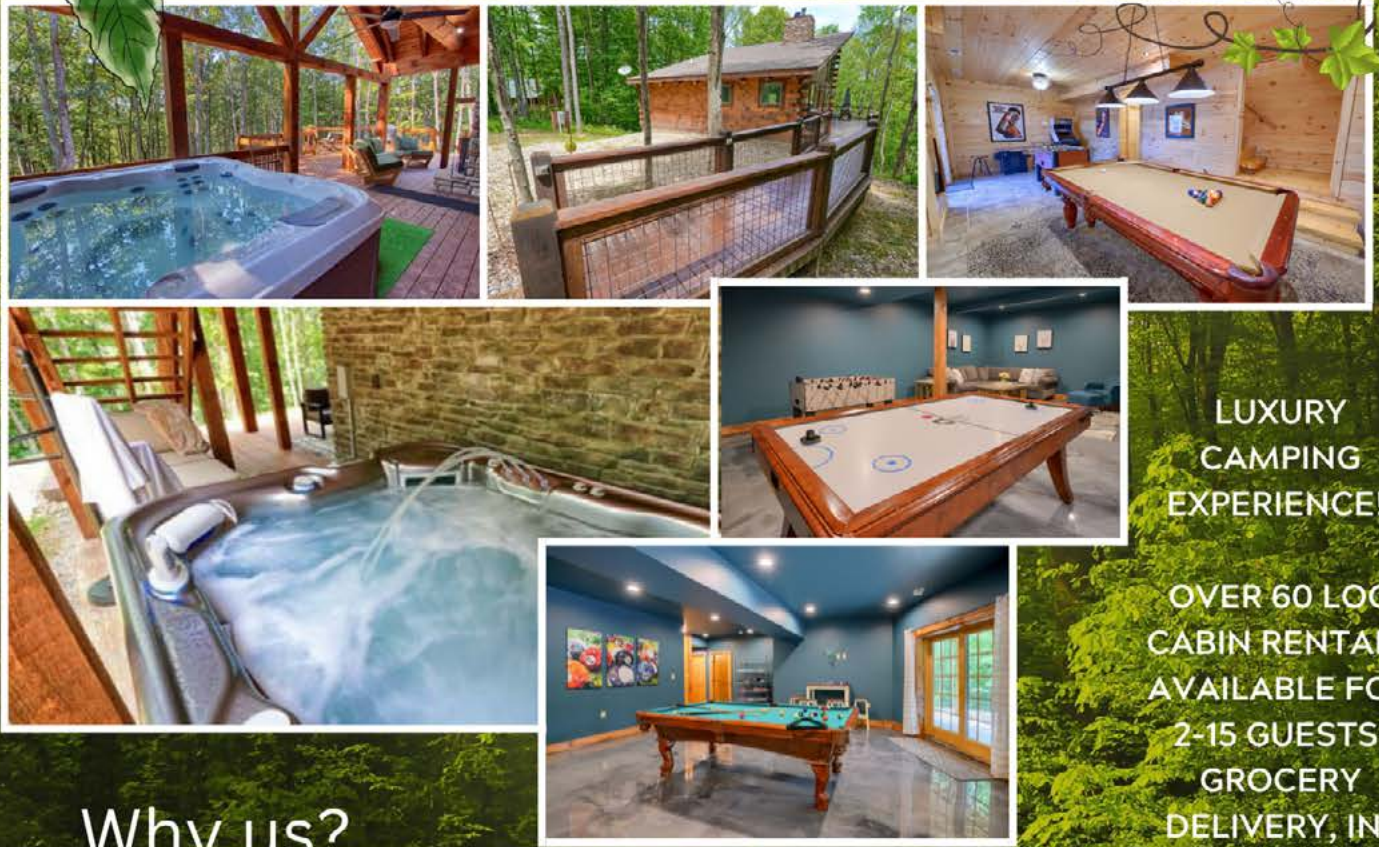


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A Message from The Editor

That time is finally here - summer. We look forward to it every year with its "Sunny Days and Vibrant Nights." A time when we can absorb the sun's rays during the day and experience spectacular night activities.

In this issue, we are highlighting new locations and ideas for ways to enjoy the warmth of the sun and build incredible memories of starry nights. We have music and summer festivals information from locations in Ohio and neighboring states.

You'll learn about the Folk Festival in Quaker City, the Y-Bridge Arts Festival, Blossom Music Center's incredible summer lineup of artists visiting our state, and a grand festival in Canton at the Hall of Fame Village with guest star Carrie Underwood. So many genres of music and culture to be seen, heard and enjoyed.

We also share adventures for the summer, of course. Visit our friends at Adventure Pro Outdoors to experience canoeing, tubing, camping and ATV riding, whether you're a pro or a beginner. Go south to West Virginia in the New River Gorge National Park area where River Expeditions will take you on a ride of your life white water rafting through epic rapids and scenery.

No matter what you do this summer, make it memorable and enjoy the Sunny Days and Vibrant Nights.

Douglas M. Kish, M.A.

Editor



Compass Ohio strives to be a thought leader in Fitness, Health and Recreation information to educate and inspire readers through print, digital, mobile, social media, strategic marketing campaigns and trade shows throughout Ohio and beyond.

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Summit County's Summer Music Scene

By Trish Mann



Third Eye Blind
Some photos courtesy of Live Nation

Summit County's summer music scene is a vibrant mix of melodies and memories. From small-town concerts to renowned venues like Blossom Music Center, the region comes alive with diverse genres, inviting all to bask in the joy of warm summer evenings.

As the evening sun casts a warm glow, the historic streets of Hudson come alive. Families and friends are drawn to the heart of the town, where the Summer Music Festival, a cherished tradition since 1977, brings the community together on the lawn of downtown Hudson's Green. Children giggle and play nearby as adults spread blankets and set up chairs, preparing for a night of music. The bandstand, with its classic architecture, becomes the focal point of their evening. It's a scene of togetherness, where the universal language of music weaves memories of sights and sounds, echoing the

enduring spirit of community and the timeless joy of summer melodies.

In Akron, Lock 3 Park, despite its ongoing transformations, continues to be a hub of musical activity. The Backyard, a unique outdoor venue, hosts the Rock the Lock and Saturday Concerts, blending nostalgia and discoveries. It's where the old-school soul meets the vibrant energy of live performances, creating memories that linger long after the music fades.

While in Tallmadge, Music on the Circle embodies the Americana spirit, offering a pause from summer's fast pace. On Thursday evenings, the historic Circle comes alive with music, from the 80s tunes of New Wave Nation to the classic hits of The Belairs. It's a place where the community gathers, enjoying a mix of genres under the stars in the city's heart. These free summer concerts provide a relaxing atmosphere that creates lasting memories on warm summer evenings.

Nestled in Barberton's heart, Lake Anna Park hosts cherished daytime concerts. The sun's glow and tranquil waters set a delightful scene. Each concert takes us back to simpler times, from lively polka to diverse music. It's a place where the community gathers, united by the timeless joy of music, in the serene embrace of nature.

Cuyahoga Falls also shines with its summer extravaganza, Falls Downtown Fridays, where art, music, and food merge in a vibrant celebration. This lively event turns the city's heart into a bustling hub of festivity. Highlights like the Riverfront Irish Festival, Festa Italiana, and CF Oktoberfest highlight this charming area's rich cultures and strong communities. It's a time when the streets come alive, and the city's spirit is on full display. Everyone is invited to join in the fun and make unforgettable summer memories.



Most well-known is Blossom Music Center, a cherished summer venue for live concerts and the esteemed summer residence of The Cleveland Orchestra. This illustrious ensemble breathes life into classical music amidst the natural splendor of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The theater's natural setting, excellent acoustics, and the orchestra's skill create a magical musical experience. It touches the hearts of classical music fans and newcomers alike.

Blossom Music Center's summer lineup showcases an incredible diversity of performers. Fans will be thrilled with the Dave Matthews Band on June 25. Third Eye Blind with Yellowcard and A R I Z O N A follows on July 5. On July 15, it's the Train and REO Speedwagon Co-Headline Tour. Sam Hunt will appear along with special guests Russell

Dickerson and George Birge on July 19. Dan + Shay will be at Blossom on August 9 followed by Hootie & the Blowfish with Collective Soul and Edwin McCain on August 15. For more information on the full Blossom lineup, visit Live Nation at www.livenation.com.

Blossom Music Center continues to be a vibrant hub for live music, making it the perfect destination for anyone looking to enjoy an outdoor concert on a warm summer evening. It maintains its legacy as a cornerstone of Northeast Ohio's cultural landscape.

In this season of warmth and light, Summit's summer events are bursting with a vibrant music scene. Each one captures the heart and soul of its communities. From town squares to

Blossom Music Center, each note and melody reminds us of the joy and unity that music brings to our lives.

For more information on these and other summer events in Summit County, please check out visitakron-summit.org.



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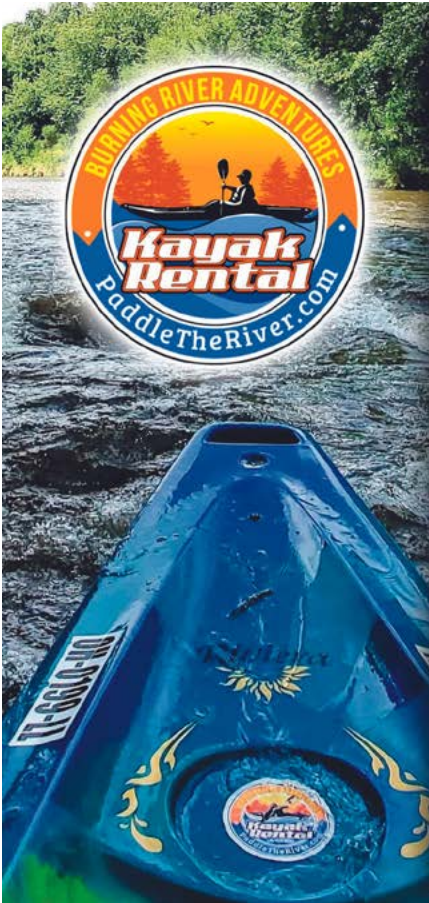
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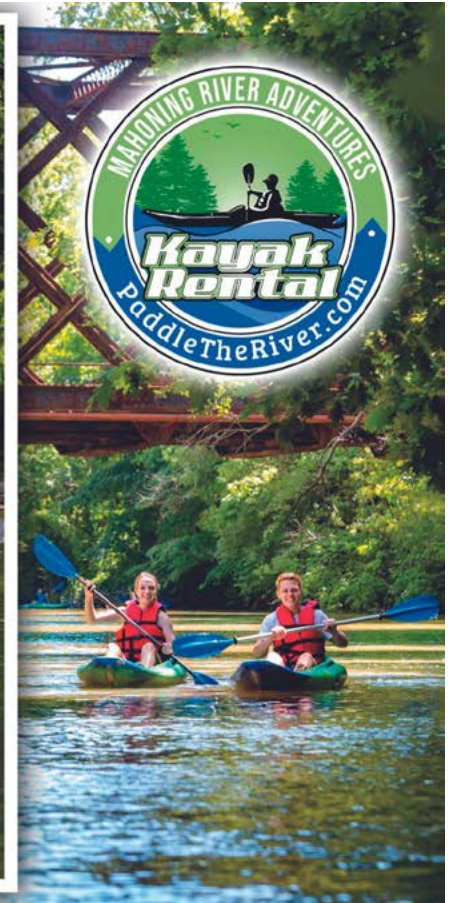


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Embrace Your Summer Nights in Ohio Amish Country

By Trish Mann

Summer nights heat up throughout the rolling hills and vibrant valleys of Ohio's Amish country to the sounds of your favorite music. You will find it here whether you prefer country, gospel, classic rock, or amazing tribute bands.

Jumpstart your weekend with Berlin's Music on the Square (May 26 to September 15), where Friday nights are about live music. After a day of shopping, the village square transforms into an open-air concert venue, showcasing a mix of rock, bluegrass, pop, and gospel. Bring your chair or arrive early to grab a seat. Feel the rhythm and dance the night away under the stars.

Catch nationally acclaimed productions and tribute bands at the Amish Country Theater, offering a night of top-notch entertainment. Highlights include JukeBox Heroes, a nostalgic show with hits from Buddy Holly, Neil Diamond, Elvis, and more, promising a toe-tapping, sing-along good time.

Experience an evening of entertainment at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek. Family-friendly performances feature musicals, concerts, comedy acts, and variety shows. This year's unforgettable highlight is Ruth, one of Sight & Sound's most beloved productions. This captivating musical tells the story of a woman whose faith in God sparks a series of events that change the course of history. A tale of redemption and second chances,



Ruth is a must-see event that promises to inspire and move audiences.

Sit back and relax at Doughty Glen Winery, an idyllic setting amidst the beautiful countryside. Enjoy a glass of wine while local artists serenade you with their music. It's the perfect way to unwind after a day of exploration. Another great spot is Sunny Slope Winery, a lively place known for its deli, food trucks, and musical entertainment. Spend an evening in its charming garden area, where the atmosphere buzzes with laughter and music.

Travel back to the 1950s at the 33rd Fabulous 50s Fling in Sugarcreek. Classic cars, delicious food, and authentic music from the era are just the highlights of this event, June 7-8. Dance to the sounds of the BelAirs and other performers while enjoying the nostalgia of the fabulous fifties.

Thunder Over Holmes County in Millersburg (June 29) is the perfect place to celebrate Independence Day.



Games, food trucks, and live music entertain the entire family. At day's end, enjoy the spectacular fireworks display lighting up the sky over Millersburg.

Ohio Amish Country is a destination that has blossomed into a blend of relaxation and excitement. No longer just a day trip. This region invites you to explore its unique shopping, vibrant entertainment, diverse lodging, and many family-friendly activities. To plan your adventure today, visitamishcountry.com.

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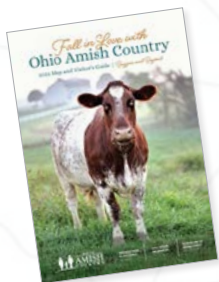
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Coshocton Sunflower Festival

Sows Seeds of Happiness

By Trish Mann

As a sunflower enthusiast, I can't help but get excited about the Coshocton Sunflower Festival. This event celebrates summer and sunflowers and is held annually at the Coshocton KOA in Ohio. Over fifty varieties of sunflowers, each adding its unique color and texture to the landscape, make it feel like stepping into a living painting with nature's beauty on display.

The Coshocton Sunflower Festival distinguishes itself with its meticulous attention to detail and unwavering commitment to creating a memorable experience for every visitor. Imagine a tranquil, shady woodland adjacent to the sunflower field, offering an ideal spot to unwind while enjoying live music, food trucks, and a beer garden. The festival's specialty fresh-squeezed lemonade and wine slushies enhance the summer atmosphere.

More than just a showcase of sunflowers, the festival prides itself on its service-oriented approach. A devoted team of staff members goes the extra mile to assist guests, from bagging sunflowers to aiding those with mobility challenges, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all.



One of the festival's unique highlights is the "Sippin' on Sunshine" event on August 3. What could be better than a beer and wine tasting nestled among the sunflowers? This exclusive occasion allows guests to sample Ohio's finest beverages while getting an early glimpse as the sunflower field begins to bloom. It's an unparalleled blend of nature, community, and local flavors that you won't find elsewhere.

The festival's primary weekend, August 9-11, is an absolute must-visit. The peak bloom window unveils a mesmerizing view of the sunflowers in their full splendor. Wagon rides, live music, food trucks, a wine and beer garden, and craft vendors contribute to the festive atmosphere. For those wishing to prolong their experience, on-site camping is available, with festival admission included.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Coshocton Sunflower Festival is its ever-changing photo props. The organizers look for new and unique

props to enhance the field's visual appeal each year. This year, they're adding a Volkswagen Beetle, which will surely be a hit among photographers and Instagram enthusiasts.

Celebrating nature, community, and the joys of summer, this festival is a joy for sunflower lovers like me. With stunning fields of color, engaging activities, and a commitment to service, it offers a unique and beautiful way to experience the season and is worth checking out. Beginning with the "Sippin' on Sunshine," the event runs over three weekends. For a complete list of dates and times, visit www.coshoctonsunflowerfestival.com or www.visitcoshocton.com.

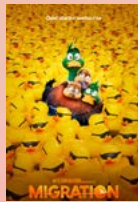
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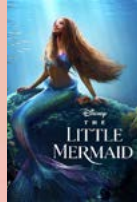
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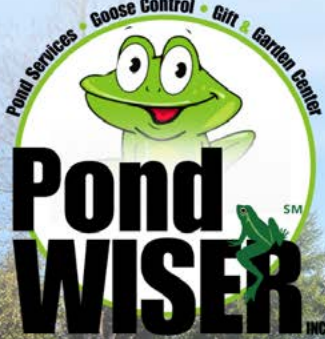
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Embark on the Ultimate Summer Adventure at **HALL OF FAME VILLAGE**

By Madison Zurakowski

As the sun grows warmer and the days stretch longer, it's time to find your next ultimate summer adventure. Look no further than Hall of Fame Village. Located at the crossroads of sports and entertainment, Hall of Fame Village is a 100+ acre development surrounding the iconic Pro Football Hall of Fame, where the greatest to ever play the game are enshrined. A jam-packed

“Playbook” of events promises a summer of fun with something to offer for all. Whether you are a sports enthusiast, a “foodie,” or have thrill rides in mind, Hall of Fame Village is the newest must-see destination for summer fun, right in the heart of Ohio in Canton.

A Destination Like No Other

Hall of Fame Village is not just a destination; it's a multi-use sport, entertainment, and media hub that boasts many opportunities to dine, shop, and be entertained. With six venues—including the iconic Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, ForeverLawn Sports Complex, Constellation Center for Excellence, Center for Performance, Play-Action Plaza, and Fan Engagement Zone—the Village is a playground for enthusiasts of all ages. Plus, check out the 125-foot-tall “Red Zone” Giant Wheel, “The Forward Pass” zipline and a 40-foot drop tower called “Spike It,” the only rides of their kind in Stark County.

Summer Festivities Await

Following a “Playbook” built exclusively for fun and excitement, Hall of Fame Village’s curated summer lineup promises to get you in the game for some fun in the sun. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, get ready to check out the coolest of the cool at the Village’s Cruise-In Car Shows held every Tuesday. Car enthusiasts of every stripe will revel in the diverse array of cars and trucks on display, enjoy music and entertainment, and be able to get some great eats at one of the restaurants and outlets on site. We really rev things up by bringing two full days of Cars and Music to campus during the Crusin’ & Groovin’ Weekend, taking place June 21-22.

Playbook Thursdays this summer have something for everyone. Starting with Movie Nights at Play-Action Plaza. Bring the whole family to the Village’s interactive outdoor amphitheater/green space, as we showcase beloved family favorite sports movies beneath the twinkling stars. Don’t forget your chair and blanket, we will have plenty of popcorn, food, and outdoor fun, making for the perfect summer family night. If action is what you are looking for, then look no further than the rooftop of Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, also on Thursdays. Third Down Thursdays takes place on the Stadium’s Sky Terrace and includes great food, the newest cocktails/mocktails, and live entertainment, all while taking in panoramic views of the Hall of Fame City.

Is getting in some great laughs part of your Playbook this summer? Then join us at the Village as we continue to bring some of Comedy’s best and most popular comics to Canton. This Summer, the Fully Loaded Comedy Festival, featuring a stellar lineup of comedians including Bert Kreischer, Tony Hinchcliffe, Whitney Cummings, and more, is guaranteed to tickle your funny bone and help you check that one off the summer playlist.

Is BBQ your Summer Play? Then you won’t want to miss the BBQ Smoke Show at Hall of Fame Village. Come enjoy some of the region’s most finger-licking sauces, delectable side dishes, and weigh in on your favorites as all compete for coveted prizes in a celebration of smoky indulgence.

Are you ready for some Flag and Women’s Football? Then you won’t want to miss the NFL Flag Football Championships, showcasing the best talents of youth players representing all 32 NFL teams.

Additionally, mark your calendars for a weekend of adrenaline-pumping action with the Women’s Football Alliance, the world’s largest and most competitive women’s tackle football league.

No Summer Playbook in Canton would be complete without the festivities of The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement. 2024 Enshrinement Week, an iconic celebration of football’s legendary figures. Join the festivities, including the kick-off of the NFL Season with the annual NFL Hall of Fame Game, this year featuring the Chicago Bears versus the Houston Texans. The Enshrinement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, August 2, and you won’t want to miss this year’s Concert for Legends featuring 8-time Grammy winner Carrie Underwood.

The summer fun doesn’t end with Enshrinement as the Village brings back the Tacos & Tequila Music Fest. True to its name, you won’t want to miss this all-day event featuring food trucks from the region offering great eats and Tequila while some of hip hop’s most iconic bring it to Canton.

Your Summer Playbook is ready in Canton! Gather your friends, load the family up, and find your right “Play” for a summer full of fun at Hall of Fame Village. A full schedule of events, details, ride tickets, packages, and updates can all be found at hofvillage.com.





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The 12,000 square foot interpretive center will be a three-story structure, designed to pay tribute to the Shawnee longhouse, the traditional dwelling of the Shawnee people.

A living stream will be the signature display on the main floor.

Also on this entry level is a theater, exhibits, welcome desk, gift area, and restrooms.

The second floor will feature displays documenting a historical timeline of the Shawnee People in Ohio prior to European settlement to current day. The timeline is punctuated with interesting stories about people of historical importance, bringing history to life in a way that is relatable and memorable.

The lower level of the building will be dedicated to temporary exhibits about the history, culture, art, and modern-day Shawnee Tribe.



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NEW RIVER GORGE: A World-Class Adventure Destination

By Candy S. Collins, BS



The New River Gorge in West Virginia is a top choice for those looking to combine adventure and music in the great outdoors. Its beautiful scenery and various activities make it the perfect place for an unforgettable summer vacation.

Renowned for its adventure offerings, the New River Gorge has been named one of the "20 Coolest Travel Adventures For 2024" by National Geographic. The magazine states, "Despite its name, West Virginia's New River is one of the oldest rivers on Earth, possibly as old as 360 million years."

The New River Gorge's unique geological features and dramatic landscape create diverse rapids, making each journey down the river a distinctive adventure. With a plunge of 750 feet over just 50 miles and carving through towering sandstone cliffs before merging with the Gauley River, the gorge offers a one-of-a-kind setting for exploration.

As the longest and deepest river gorge in the Appalachians, the New River Gorge caters to all experience levels, from beginners to seasoned rafters. Professional guides are available to ensure a safe and thrilling experience, allowing participants to fully immerse themselves in the exhilarating challenge of navigating its powerful currents.

After an exhilarating day of conquering the rapids, the New River Gorge area seamlessly transitions from the thrill of whitewater rafting to the vibrant rhythms of its music festivals, offering a perfect blend of adventure and melody for a memorable summer experience.

The Mountain Music Festival at the ACE Adventure Resort, from May 31 to June 1, 2024, is a significant summer highlight in the New River Gorge. This annual festival combines music and outdoor adventure, providing attendees with a unique experience surrounded by natural beauty.



With a lineup featuring various musical genres, the festival creates an energetic atmosphere that fills the resort. Beyond the music, the ACE Adventure Resort offers multiple outdoor activities. Festival-goers can enjoy whitewater rafting, horseback riding, zip-lining, mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, and swimming in a lake with inflatables. Camping options allow attendees to fully immerse themselves in the outdoor experience, from waking up to the sounds of nature to ending the day under a starlit sky. For more information about the festival, visit <https://mountainmusicfestwv.com>.

The Appalachian String Band Festival, taking place from July 31 through August 4, 2024, is another key event in the New River Gorge area. This festival celebrates traditional music, and culture, and draws musicians and enthusiasts from around the globe, showcasing the region's rich heritage. It's a beautiful blend of old-time music, dance, and craftsmanship, offering a unique insight into Appalachian traditions. For further details, visit <https://wvculture.org/explore/camp-washington-carver/string-band-music-festival/>.

The New River Gorge area in West Virginia is a paradise for those looking for adventure, music, and natural beauty during the summer. With its famous festivals, such as the Mountain Music Festival at ACE Adventure Resort and the Appalachian String Band Festival, and world-class whitewater rafting recognized by National Geographic, there's no shortage of excitement and entertainment. Whether you're an adrenaline junkie, a music lover, or a nature enthusiast, the New River Gorge provides an unparalleled summer experience that will create lasting memories.

Stay up to date on the happenings at New River Gorge CVB's events page at <https://newrivergorgecvb.com/events/>.

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Savor the Summer Season in Knox County, Ohio

By Trish Mann

Nestled in central Ohio, Knox County emerges as a summer destination filled with cultural festivities and historical charm. This central Ohio county offers diverse events and attractions, making it a perfect spot for relaxation and adventure.

Ariel-Foundation Park, a sprawling 250-acre oasis near downtown Mount Vernon, reflects nature's beauty and the area's industrial heritage. The park is ideal for summer concerts and outdoor activities with its picturesque landscapes, serene lakes, and intriguing sculptures. It's a place where art and nature

converge, offering visitors a unique and tranquil experience.

As Knox County's premier performance venue, the Knox Memorial Theater is on the brink of celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025. With a capacity of 1,000 seats, this historic theater hosts a variety of shows and events, from musicals to concerts. Its architectural elegance and rich history make it a cornerstone of Knox County's cultural scene.

The Woodward Opera House is the oldest authentic opera house in North America. This 500-seat venue is a piece of history and offers an intimate performance setting. It is a unique and memorable experience for both performers and audiences. Visit thewoodward.org for detailed information about upcoming events.

The crowning jewel of Knox County's summer events is The Mount Vernon Music & Arts Festival. As the largest festival in the county, it showcases an impressive lineup of musical talent, art exhibits, and culinary delights. This festival celebrates creativity and community spirit, drawing people from all walks of life to revel in the joy of music and arts.



Knox County, Ohio, is a treasure trove of summer events and attractions. From the natural beauty of Ariel-Foundation Park to the historical elegance of the Knox Memorial Theater and The Woodward Opera House, there's something for everyone. The Mount Vernon Music & Arts Festival further highlights the county's commitment to celebrating culture and community. For all the details, check out Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau to begin making your summer plans. Whether you're a resident or a visitor, Knox County promises a summer filled with memorable experiences and lasting memories.

Above: Ariel-Foundation Park (fireworks), Photo Credit Mount Vernon Arts Consortium
Left: Photo Credit JAMS Photography



Clint Black Knox Memorial, Photo Credit JAMS Photography

Hot Summer Events in Athens County

By Trish Mann



Summer events in Athens County, Ohio, promise a season filled with vibrant festivals, captivating music, and delightful arts. Whether you're a local or a visitor, these must-attend events offer something for everyone to enjoy, making your summer genuinely memorable.

Nelsonville Music Festival (July 26-28) is tucked into the picturesque rolling hills of southeast Ohio. The 18th annual Nelsonville Music Festival is set to take place at Snow Fork Event Center. Renowned for its intimate setting and diverse lineup, the festival features over 40 national, regional, and local acts across various genres. Attendees can also enjoy camping, kid's activities, unique artisan and retail vendors, and local food. The festival is a production of Stuart's Opera House, supporting its tuition-free Arts Education programs.

Black Diamond Music & Arts Festival (June 7) celebrates the rich country and bluegrass traditions of Southeast Ohio. This event pays homage to the musical genres that have been a staple of the region for over two centuries.

Get ready to rock at Rock for Cause at the Starbrick Music Festival (June 7-9). The festival offers a blend of country and classic rock from the 1970s through the 90s. Held at Hocking College, this event features hits from iconic bands like KISS, AC/DC, Van Halen, and more. The festival is family-friendly, with games and activities for children. The event supports the Chris Roell TBI Foundation for Traumatic Brain Injury and Mental Health Awareness.

Experience the original Ohio Brew Week (July 12-20). This 9-day festival celebrates Ohio's brewing and

fermenting prowess. With hundreds of beers, select ciders, meads, and more, this event is a must for craft brew enthusiasts.

The Alonzo Weed Festival (August 17) honors the 1903 vagabond mayor of Amesville, Alonzo Weed. The festival features local live music, food from Park's Place, Jackie O's beer, plant booths, and craft booths. Festivities for this unique celebration kick off at 2:00 pm in downtown Amesville, with music starting at 5:30 pm on the John O'Donnell stage.

Summer events in Athens County offer a vibrant showcase of the community's spirit. The diverse array of activities, ranging from music and arts festivals to family-friendly fun, ensures there's something for everyone to enjoy. For more information on these fabulous events and other exciting adventures, visit AthensOhio.com.



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Find Your Best Summer in Noble County, Ohio

By Trish Mann

Noble County, Ohio, is a quintessential summer destination, offering a delightful mix of festive events and peaceful retreats that capture the essence of Americana. Here's a guide to the must-visit attractions that make Noble County a memorable summer getaway.

The summer season in Noble County kicks off with a bang at the Caldwell Fireman's Festival, held July 25-27. Celebrating 72 years strong, this three-day event takes place in Historic downtown Caldwell and features an array of carnival rides, delectable food options, and live musical performances. The festival's highlight is the grand parade on July 27, which boasts over 150 entries and draws thousands of spectators from near and far.

Noble County's creative spirit comes to life at Art on the Square, June 14-15. This event showcases local crafters and artists who display various heritage craft items, home furnishings, quilts, and paintings. Visitors can also enjoy live artist demonstrations and music performances. For the younger attendees, the Children's Corner offers a range of fun activities, including face painting and games.

A celebration of agriculture and community, the Noble County Fair is a cherished event with a 165-year history. Held in Caldwell, this week-long fair leading up to Labor Day highlights the summer calendar. It features agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, and entertainment on two stages, ensuring there's never a dull moment. The fairgrounds come alive with a vibrant midway, thrilling rides, and games for all ages. The demolition derby and tractor pulls are particularly popular among visitors. And no fair experience would be complete without indulging in the array of classic fair food, from sweet treats to savory delights.

After the excitement of Noble County's summer events, Hillside Winery in the historic town of Gilboa offers a serene escape. Visitors can unwind in the winery's rustic tasting room or relax on the outdoor patio, savoring

the local wines and enjoying the picturesque surroundings.

Noble County's summer events showcase the region's vibrant community spirit and rich cultural heritage. From the exhilarating Caldwell Fireman's Festival to the artistic allure of Art on the Square, the agricultural traditions of the Noble County Fair, and the tranquil Hillside Winery, there's no shortage of experiences to enjoy. Embrace the charm of Noble County and create unforgettable memories this summer. See the website www.visitnoblecountyohio.com to plan your adventure today.





7 THINGS

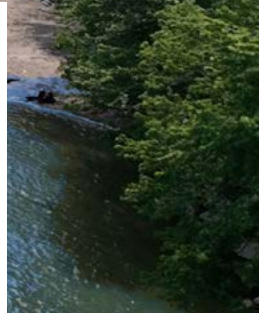
TO DO ON A SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO BEACH DAY – and the Best Beaches for Each

By Jill Bauer

We all have experienced your typical beach day – lounge by the shore, toes in the sand, kids build sand castles, splash in the water to cool off, and have an all-around enjoyable and relaxing day by the lake. But there are so many different and fun ways to enjoy our beaches. What else can you do at a **Shores & Islands Ohio** beach? Here we break down some other beach options and where you can enjoy the fun.

Fun and Games – While building sandcastles can be a blast, a bit of friendly competition can add a spark of fun to your day. At Nickle Plate Beach in Huron there are sand volleyball courts, permanent corn hole boards, and ping-pong tables (rent bean bags and paddles from the Paddle Shack or bring your own). Paddle Shack also rents active group games such as Spikeball, Kan-Jam, Ladder Golf, Giant Yard Pong, beach darts, sports balls, and more. At Cedar Point Beach, from July 19 to August 18, 2024 enjoy nightly activities as part of Boardwalk Nights. When the sun goes down, the Cedar Point Beach and The Boardwalk area of the park electrify with





larger-than-life entertainment, over-the-top food and drink, games for the entire family, music and dancing, lights and sounds that inspire the best summertime dance moves, and more.

Reel in the Big One - Or, tell tall tales about "the one that got away." There are several local beach areas where fishing from shore is encouraged and many with dedicated fishing piers. So, grab some bait and cast off. Beaches with fishing piers include Catawba Island State Park, Kelleys Island State Park, Mazurik Access, South Bass Island State Park, Lions Park, and Nokomis Park. Visitors can even borrow fishing poles and gear from the Ritter Library in Vermilion and then head to Main Street Beach to try their hand at making a big catch.

Hunt for Treasure - Lake Erie's greatest treasure, besides yellow perch and walleye, is beach glass. Sometimes known as sea glass, beach glass hunters especially enjoy hitting the beach in search of rare, weathered glass washed ashore by the lake current. Treasure-

seekers often hit these beaches after a storm or particularly windy day. In addition to glass, hunters look out for marbles, pottery pieces, shells, and lucky stones (the ear bone of the freshwater drum, or sheephead fish). Beaches known as hot spots for glass hunting include Magee Marsh, Scheeff East Point, and North Pond State Nature Preserve.

Take a Hike - Many beaches are in state parks or nature areas which feature miles of hiking trails. Or, you can take a nice gentle walk on a paved path or boardwalk nearby or leading to the beach. East Harbor State Park offers plenty of hiking and biking trails throughout its expansive park, many adjacent to the beach. Sherod Park and Lakeside Beach also offer paved walking trails near the beach. Sometimes, the reward of a good hike can be the views. If you want a nice walk with a payoff of a beautiful, secluded (non-swimming) beach area, consider Sheldon Marsh or North Pond.

Kiddie Paradise - What is more awesome for a kiddo than an amazing playground to climb and play on,

accompanied by miles of sand box for digging and building? Many of the area's beaches also feature play equipment or adjacent parks which can keep little ones entertained for hours. Beaches with playgrounds/parks include Lake Front Park, Bettinger Park/Lakeside Beach, Nickel Plate Beach, Port Clinton City Beach (across from Lakeview Park), and Sherod Park.

Splash with Fido - A number of beaches offer pet-friendly areas or allow dogs on a leash. If you've got a pupper who loves frolicking in the waves, take that furry babe to East Harbor State Park, Wakefield MetroPark (adjacent to Main Street Beach), Kelleys Island State Park, Lake Front Park, or Port Clinton City Beach. Don't forget to bring fresh water for drinking!

Advanced Water Play - Experienced swimmers can do the doggie paddle or float on their back, but advanced beach-goers know the fun of Lake Erie is enhanced with various watercraft rentals. Zoom around on a jet ski, paddle along the shoreline in a kayak or stand-up paddle board (some paddle boards even hold a whole group!), let the wind in your sails with a sunfish sailboat, or take a power boat out for a day on the lake. Jet ski rentals are offered at Cedar Point (North Coast Parasail) and South Bass Island State Park. Jet skis can also be rented from Bayview Watercraft Rentals and taken out to the sand bars in Sandusky Bay or customers are allowed to enjoy their private beach. Kayaks and paddle boards can be rented at Lakeside Beach, Cedar Point, Kelleys Island State Park, Nickle Plate Beach, and South Bass Island State Park. Extra-large paddle boards are offered at South Bass Island State Park and Nickle Plate. Sunfish sailboats are offered at Lakeside Beach and power boats can be rented at South Bass Island State Park or Cedar Point. Enjoy a bird's eye view of the beach with a parasail from North Coast Parasail at Cedar Point.

With so many fun ways to make the most out of your day at the beach, shouldn't you start planning your getaway now? Check out all of the Shores & Islands Ohio area beaches and order your Play + Stay Guide at **SHORESandISLANDS.com**. The lake is calling...



An annual **Fort Steuben Summer Concert Series** has drawn hundreds of music lovers to the Berkman Amphitheater in Fort Steuben Park each summer for the past 18 years. Every Thursday evening from May 30 to August 1, there are free concerts in a variety of genres, from Appalachian country to the Big Band Sound. Overlooking the Ohio River, concert goers bring picnic baskets or purchase hot dogs or ice cream from local food vendors. The popularity of the concert series has inspired neighboring towns to create their own programs so there are musical performances nearby almost any day of the week.

More music can be enjoyed at the monthly **First Friday on Fourth** when Steubenville's main downtown street is closed to traffic and pedestrians can wander among the various artisan booths, try a local craft beer, taste some fresh baked goods, and listen to live entertainment. Interactive art projects, dance performances, and kids' activities add to the fun at each month's special event which will begin May 3 with a Street Music Fest theme.

History is celebrated at **Ohio Valley Frontier Days**, the first weekend in June, at Historic Fort Steuben. For two days the reconstructed 18th century fort is filled with reenactors and crafts people demonstrating what life was like on the

Ohio frontier. Visitors can march with Baron von Steuben, toss a tomahawk with Frontier Day, dip candles or watch the blacksmith with period music playing in the background. On Sunday, June 2, Ohio Artist of the Year Steve Free will perform original and classic Ohio Valley songs as well as share his Native American heritage. Other performers will present traditional early American instruments and music.

Ethnic celebrations are part of the fabric of life in Steubenville. The **Holy Trinity Greek Fest** is a highlight of the summer with the wonderful smells and flavors of traditional Greek dishes. Held June 12-14, the Festival also features the sights and sounds of Greece with music and dancing. The annual **African American Heritage Festival** on August 3 in the North End Ball Park welcomes everyone to experience the music, foods, traditions, and arts of Steubenville's African American community.

Public Art abounds in Steubenville, also known as the City of Murals for its 23 works of art displayed on city walls. Last year, a new project was unveiled by the Steubenville Cultural Trust, creators of the holiday-themed Steubenville Nutcracker Village. **The Catfish Crawl Art Walk** is a collection of intricately painted giant catfish located throughout the downtown. From July 1 through September 1, visitors stroll around downtown to find the ten unique designs by local artists.

For more information on these and other events go to www.VisitSteubenville.com or call the Steubenville Visitor Center at 866-304-1787.

Steubenville Celebrates its History & Culture

By Judy Bratten

As one of the oldest cities in Ohio, Steubenville is proud of its history and cultural heritage. With a diverse community founded at the gateway of the country's westward expansion, Steubenville celebrates through music, art, food, and festivals.



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Stark Area Regional Transit Authority Introduces Micro-Transit Service

● By Leo Jennings

The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA), which has won numerous national awards and secured millions of dollars in state and federal grants for its innovative zero emission programs and development and deployment of cutting-edge technology, is now preparing to introduce a new micro-transit service, a groundbreaking pilot project that will, when fully implemented, revolutionize public transit in Stark County.

The new service will be available in a limited area of southwest Stark County sometime soon. Like the popular ride-hailing services Uber and Lyft, the micro-transit will enable people to request on-demand, curb-to-curb rides on their mobile phone, tablet, or computer using a free app developed by Via, the world's leading provider of digital infrastructure for public transportation. Additional details about the pilot project, including how to download and use the micro-transit app, fares, exact service area, and hours of operation are nearly finalized and will be released to the media and posted on SARTA's social media platforms soon.

SARTA CEO Kirt Conrad said the micro-transit launch marks the beginning of SARTA's long-planned evolution from a mass transit agency to a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) system. "The differences between the two models are significant, game changing, and explain why MaaS is viewed as the future of public transportation," he said.

"Traditional transit systems offer separate fixed route and pre-scheduled on-demand service," Conrad explained. "Fixed routes are exactly that—fixed. They travel to set locations at set times. On-demand services, like our ProLine, require users to pre-register and schedule trips in advance. While this service model meets basic needs, its inherent rigidity makes it challenging for us to provide the coverage, flexibility, and convenience existing and potential new riders desire."

"Adopting the MaaS model and implementing the micro-transit will enable us to overcome those challenges by merging our various mobility services into a single, user-friendly platform that will give riders unprecedented control over their public transit experience," Conrad said. "We believe that by enabling users to summon the ride they need when they need it, whether they are traveling early in the morning, late at night, or to a place our fixed routes don't reach now, this micro-transit will generate increased ridership by making SARTA a more attractive transportation option than ever before."

While the service is similar to Lyft and Uber, Conrad noted that the micro-transit will offer two distinct advantages over private companies: cost and safety. "Our fee per ride will be much more affordable and, because safety is, as always, one of our primary concerns, all vehicles in the micro-transit service will meet the requirements set in place by SARTA and operated by drivers who meet the same requirements and expectations that our SARTA drivers do on a daily basis," he said.

"Everyone at SARTA is excited about the opportunities our new service will create and confident that the micro-transit will make SARTA the ride more and more people use to travel to thousands of destinations in Stark County and beyond."



Mark Your Calendars!

Northwest Ohio's Festival Fun Awaits

By Jessica Lammers

Northwest Ohio bursts with vibrant festivals throughout the year. Here's a sneak peek at some exciting events to add to your summer calendar.

Third Thursdays: Downtown Tiffin Comes Alive! Every third Thursday, downtown Tiffin transforms into a community celebration brimming with local art, music, delicious food, and unique finds. With different themes each month, there's something for everyone - a perfect chance to experience the heart of Tiffin.

Saddle Up Country Music Fans. The Allen County Fairgrounds in Lima roars to life June 21-22 with the Country Rumble Music Festival. Catch chart-topping artists like Walker Hayes and Ashley McBryde live, along with other incredible performers.

Ahoy Mateys! Set sail for adventure at Put-in-Bay's Pirate Fest, June 28-30. Family fun awaits with treasure hunts, crafts, and swashbuckling pirates. Don your best pirate attire and join the festivities.

Calling All Jeep Enthusiasts. Gear up for the Toledo Jeep Fest, August 1-4 in downtown Toledo. This free event offers a jam-packed weekend with parades, a vendor marketplace, interactive zones for kids, and live music stages.



Black Swamp Arts Festival



Toledo Jeep Fest

Hot Air Balloons Take Flight. Witness the magic of hot air balloons at Flag City BalloonFest in Findlay, August 9-11.

Wrap Up Summer with Art. The Black Swamp Arts Festival in Bowling Green caps off the summer season with a vibrant celebration of art, September 6-8. Enjoy free live music, delicious food trucks, and a stunning showcase of fine art.

Don't miss out. These are just a taste of the many exciting festivals happening in Northwest Ohio. Check out VisitNorthwestOhio.com and start planning your adventures today!



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SUMMER FUN IN

Streetsboro, Ohio

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Summer in Streetsboro, Ohio, is a time of lively festivities, outdoor fun, and community spirit. Among the season's highlights is Streetsboro Family Days, a beloved annual event that promises food, fun, and live entertainment for all ages.

The festival starts on Friday, July 26, with live bands performing throughout the night. The excitement continues on Saturday with various activities for the whole family. Kids can engage in hands-on fun at the Home Depot Kids Workshop and get up close with vehicles at the Touch a Truck event. The Donut Eating Contest and Pizza Eating Contest offer a delicious challenge for those with a competitive streak.

As the day progresses, live bands take the stage at 4 pm, providing a soundtrack to the festivities. The day concludes with a dazzling fireworks show, marking a perfect end to a fun-filled day.

Sunday brings even more excitement with the Car, Truck, and Bike Show, showcasing an impressive variety of vehicles. The Streetsboro annual Paw Petacular, located at the Park Pavilion, is a must-visit for pet lovers. This unique event celebrates the special bond between humans and their furry friends, with activities and events centered around our beloved pets. It's an excellent opportunity to meet other pet owners and enjoy a day out with your furry companion.

Adding to the summer excitement is the 2024 Brew



& BBQ Bash. This event occurs on August 17 from 12 noon to 6 pm at Streetsboro City Park. It's the 3rd annual Streetsboro Beer Fest, now branded as the Brew & BBQ Bash. The event features a wide selection of ice-cold craft beers and mouthwatering BBQ dishes. Craft beer brewers will join local BBQ enthusiasts. They'll compete in five "Best of" categories to be named 'BORO BREW & BBQ GRAND CHAMPION.

Streetsboro serves as the perfect hub for exploring nearby events as well. The surrounding area offers a variety of attractions, including the Ox Roast in Mantua, Garrettsville Summerfest, and several Concerts in the Park. Car enthusiasts will want to attend the Octane Nights on Main Street Cruise-In located in Ravenna, Ohio. This massive car show draws crowds from all over. For those interested in arts and culture, there are several Art Festivals and Art & Wine Festivals to enjoy. Twins Day and various fireworks displays add to the summer's festivities.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, Streetsboro offers a summer experience filled with joy, community, and entertainment. For more information about these events and others in the surrounding area, and to book your next stay, visit www.StreetsboroVCB.com.





of nationally acclaimed sculptor Alan Cottrill is located on 6th Street for those wanting to visit.

The festival begins at 2 pm on Friday and 11 am on Saturday, and lasts until dark. Throughout the day festival-goers will have the opportunity to explore downtown Zanesville and peruse the various artists' displays while enjoying entertainment from local dance troupes and musicians. Once the sun begins to set over the Muskingum River on Friday and Saturday evening, local jazz and blues bands Big Fat Dog and The Groove Band will take the stage.

The Zanesville Museum of Art is sponsoring an indoor children's educational art area where children can learn about and make art alongside talented community artists. The children's exhibit and other artist booths will be located in the Heritage Room of the Welcome Center, offering a reprieve from the summer heat.

In case you work up an appetite enjoying all the fantastic art, there will be a plethora of local food trucks, including Weasel Boy Microbrewery, to satiate your hunger and quench your thirst.

Craving more art outside of the festival? Zanesville has plenty of year-round art galleries such as the ZAAP, Jess Spires's "BunkoJess," Ron Cole's Aircraft, and the city's own art museum featuring a life size Snoopy exhibit. ArtCoz also hosts monthly art walks around the city the first Friday of each month.

For those traveling from out of town, visiting Zanesville has never been easier or more exciting. Seasonal tourist packages are available via their website; previous season packages have included fabulous swag and dining gift cards. For more information about the Y-Bridge Arts Festival or other fun things to explore in Zanesville, go to the Visitor's Bureau's website at visitzanesville.com.



Celebrating Art in the Community at the Zanesville Y-Bridge Arts Festival

• By Sadie Stringer •

What better way to spend a relaxing summer afternoon than exploring and benefitting Muskingum County's local art and artists? You'll be able to do just that August 2 - 3 in Zanesville, Ohio, and it's free to attend. The Artist Collective of Zanesville, known as ArtCoz, will host the 14th annual Y-Bridge Arts Festival showcasing dozens of local artists and artisans. The intersection of 4th and Shinnick streets will be blocked off to accommodate more than 60 booths from a variety of artists and craftsmen bridging the Secrest Auditorium and the Zanesville Welcome Center.

This year will see the return of founding artist Paul Emory who has been instrumental in the rehabilitation of downtown Zanesville and inception of local art collective the Zanesville Appalachian Arts Project (ZAAP). ZAAP will have its own tent for the event featuring many of their contributing artists. People's Choice award winner John Shaeffer will also be returning to the festival. The studio





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Wilds takes place on June 22-23 in Evergreen Park in Kane, PA, where artists display their original works and food and drink vendors are present, offering a variety of activities throughout the town.

Squatchfest, on July 13 is a family-friendly music festival at the Kane Family Drive-In that celebrates Bigfoot enthusiasts with live bands, entertainment, a Straub Beer truck, vendors, a Sasquatch calling contest, and a fireworks display.

The Kinzua Half Marathon and 5K, scheduled for July 27-28, offers a running adventure set against the stunning backdrop of the Kinzua Bridge State Park and Kinzua Skywalk.

The Mount Jewett Swedish Festival, August 9-11, showcases the town's Swedish heritage with traditional festivities and events that promote small-town pride.

Lastly, the 1st Annual Sunflower Festival, from August 22-25, is celebrated at The Wilds Sunshine

Factory in Kane, featuring live music, food trucks, vendors, a car/bike show, raffles, and more to honor the sunflower harvest.

Start planning your adventure; visit the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau at www.VisitANF.com.

By Candy S. Collins, BS

The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) is an extensive area of natural beauty in Pennsylvania. It offers a unique blend of recreational activities, breathtaking landscapes, and a rich history. This captivating area has been a favorite among visitors for generations.

A highlight of the ANF is the Kinzua Sky Walk. Selected as "One of the World's Top 10 Most Beautiful Skywalks and Viewpoints in the World" by the Culture Trip, UK, this engineering marvel offers breathtaking views of the Kinzua Gorge. Constructed on the historic Kinzua Viaduct remnants, the skywalk extends 624 feet into the gorge.

Visitors can walk among the treetops and experience a unique perspective of the forest's beauty. Additionally, the glass-bottomed observation deck at the end of the skywalk provides a thrilling view of the forest floor 301 feet below. This makes it a must-visit destination for those seeking adventure and awe-inspiring scenery.

The Allegheny River has been declared the 2024 Pennsylvania River of the Year. This accolade, awarded by the Pittsburgh-based group Three Rivers Waterkeeper, underscores the river's significance.

It highlights the river's importance in the local community and its role in the state's natural beauty.

Mountain bikers can also enjoy the trails at Jakes Rocks, which has been recognized as the Pennsylvania 2024 Trail of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. With a variety of routes from the gentler loops of the Tutletown and Coal Knob trails to the thrilling one-way Blacksnake gravity trail, Jakes Rocks offers something for riders of all skill levels.

Parking is available at several locations, including the Jakes Rocks Trailhead and Kinzua Point Information Center. They connect to the Dewdrop Campground for those looking for a convenient overnight stay.

The Allegheny National Forest area hosts several festivals and cultural celebrations over the summer.

The Eldred WWII Living History Reenactment Weekend, held on May 18-19 and September 21-22, 2024, features WWII reenactors at the Eldred WWII Museum, showcasing their uniforms, gear, and artifacts to bring history to life. Art in the



ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST & KINZUA SKY WALK



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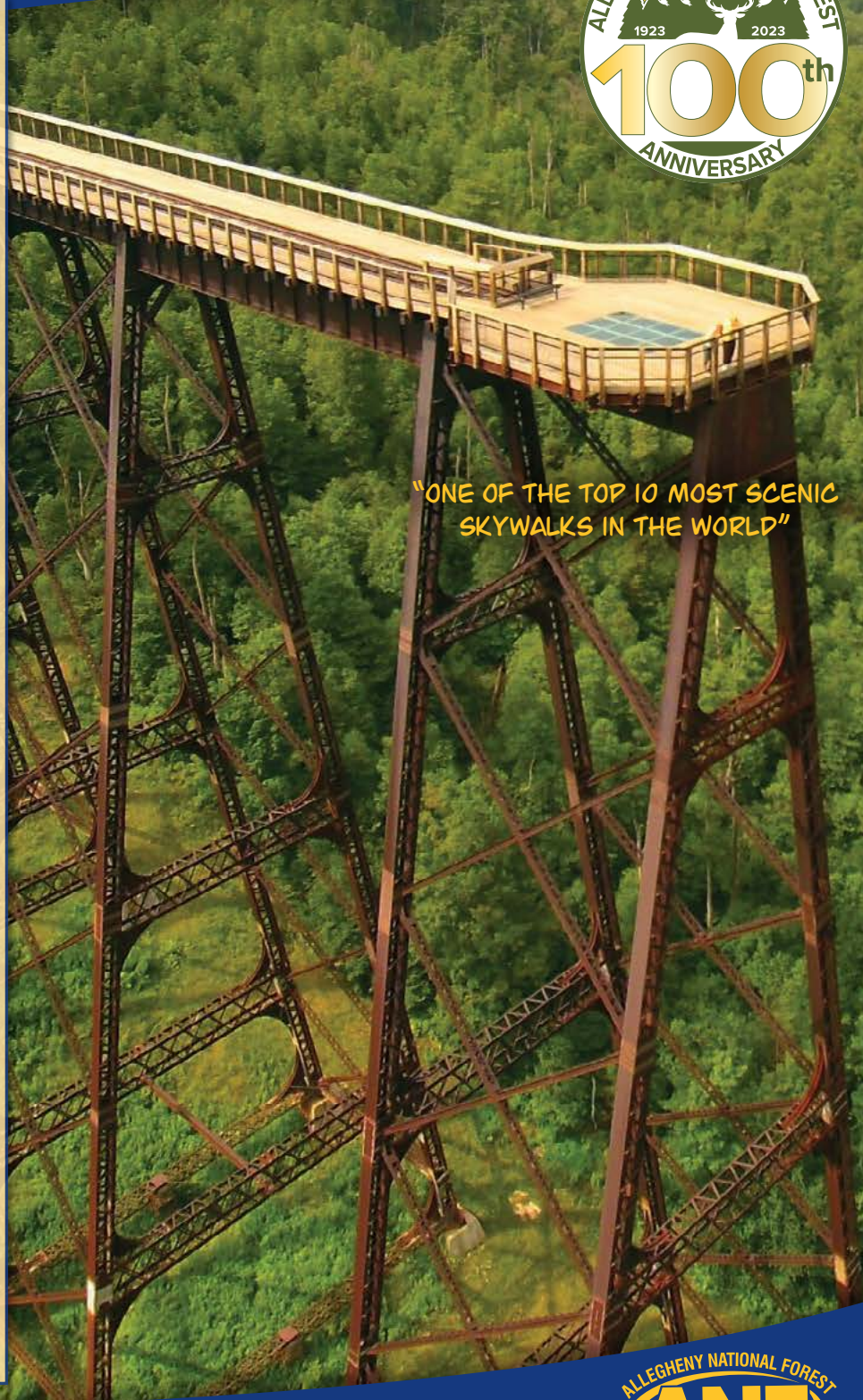
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Make the most of the summer season by exploring the outdoor spaces in Youngstown and Mahoning County. **Mill Creek MetroParks** offers over 45 miles of trails for the nature lover - everything from paved to rustic trails. You can even try bouldering in the Bears Den area of the Park. Enjoy biking throughout the park, including the 11-mile MetroParks Bikeway.

Lake Milton State Park is also a great place to spend a day on the water. Pontoon boats, jet skis and kayaks are available for rental at the marina located on the east side of the lake in the Meshel Park area. The fishing is great—you'll find large- and smallmouth bass, crappie, channel catfish and bluegill. Walleye and muskellunge are

stocked by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The 600-foot beach on the west side of the lake is a great place to relax. **The Osprey**, a 18-hole disc golf course, winds through scenic surroundings and lake views. The 10.5-mile mountain bike trail will challenge you with tight turns but almost zero rock and minimal roots, so beginners do well here.

The Youngstown area is also known for its challenging golf courses. Stay-and-play packages are available at local hotels. The Youngstown area has been ranked #4 in the U.S. for top-quality, affordable public golf courses. Whether you're up for the test of a Donald Ross-designed course, or want to try a links-style course, you're guaranteed to enjoy well-maintained,

scenic courses that will challenge golfers of all skill levels.

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ADVENTURE AWAITS AT ADVENTURE PRO OUTDOORS IN HOCKING HILLS

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Adventure Pro Outdoors is your go-to destination for outdoor fun in the Hocking Hills and Wayne National Forest region of southeast Ohio. They are known as the experts in outdoor fun, offering a variety of activities that cater to all levels of adventure seekers.

River trips are popular at Adventure Pro Outdoors, with canoe, kayak, and tube trips along the scenic Hocking River. The 3-mile River Trip is a favorite among tubers, lasting 2-4 hours, depending on the current. Canoeing and kayaking on this trip typically take 1 to 2.5 hours. For those looking for a longer journey, the 6-mile River Trip caters exclusively to canoe or kayak rentals and guests bringing their equipment, taking 2-4 hours. The 8-mile River Trip provides an extended adventure of 3-5 hours.

One of the highlights to kick off summer is the 6th Annual Summer Tube-A-Rama. It's perfect for basking in the warm weather, soaking up the sunshine, and creating memorable moments with friends and family. The event runs June 21-23, 2024, and promises days filled with floating fun in the sun.

Polaris Slingshot Rentals offers a self-guided experience to explore the local area in style. Adventure Pro Outdoors will recommend scenic routes to discover Athens, Hocking Hills, and Nelsonville.

The Windy 9 showcases stunning views leading to destinations such as Hocking Hills State Park, Wayne National Forest, Lake Hope State Park, and more. Along the way, guests can stop to enjoy a meal at a local restaurant, visit art galleries, or indulge in some local shopping.

For those who prefer guided experiences, the Sling N' Sights tour is an



exciting option. This limited-time guided tour takes adventurers through Athens, Ohio, and Hocking Hills in a 3 to 5-hour journey. Participants join a convoy of five slingshot vehicles, cruising through the forests of Hocking Hills for a distinctive experience. The tour includes visits to iconic landmarks such as Old Man's Cave and Upper Falls, led by experts

in outdoor fun. Along the way, stops at picturesque and engaging hiking trails cater to both beginner and experienced hikers.

The Guided UTV Tour through Wayne National Forest is a thrilling option for those seeking an off-road adventure. With ATV/UTV rentals, participants can explore over 75 miles

of designated trails. Expert guides navigate easy to intermediate paths, ensuring an unforgettable experience for novice and seasoned riders.

Adventure Pro Outdoors prides itself on delivering top-notch outdoor experiences, with this off-road riding adventure being no exception. Guided by

SUMMER FESTIVALS IN HOCKING HILLS

By Candy S. Collins, BS

This summer, Ohio's Hocking Hills is set to host various vibrant festivals that promise to be the season's highlight. From the eclectic sounds of the Nelsonville Music Festival to the unique Logan Washboard Arts & Music Festival, there's a festival for every taste in this beautiful region.

Kick off your summer with the Logan Washboard Arts & Music Festival from June 13-15, 2024. This event celebrates the washboard as a musical instrument. Enjoy music, arts and crafts, a car show, and free activities for children. It's a weekend filled with fun in the heart of Hocking Hills.

Next up is Lilyfest, from July 12-14, offering a serene escape into nature, art, and music. Explore hiking trails, a Viking village, and the Forest Friends exhibit for children. As the premier outdoor education and gardening event in Hocking Hills, Lilyfest is a must-visit for nature and art enthusiasts.

The Nelsonville Music Festival follows on July 26-28. With over 50 performances across three stages, on-site camping, kids' activities, and a focus on sustainability, this festival is a true community highlight.

Don't miss the Hocking Hills Bigfoot Festival in historic downtown Logan on August 2-3. This family-friendly event features music, art, culture, tours, workshops, and nightlife, all celebrating the legend of Bigfoot in the hometown of Hocking Hills.

In addition to these festivals, enjoy local music events with Music in the Park at Worthington Park every Friday from June to August in 2024. Discover live music at local wineries and breweries every Friday and Saturday night. The Bowen House summer music concert series includes Nick Cosgrove's Lawn Concert on June 1, the Columbus Symphony Brass Quintet on June 9, the Douglas MacArthur Band Ten Hearts Double Header on July 27, and The Nostalgics Big Band Concert on August 17.

Experience the magic of Hocking Hills through these vibrant summer festivals, each offering a unique blend of music, art, and community spirit. Visit Explore Hocking Hills for more information at www.explorehockinghills.com. Additional information about rental equipment in the area can be found on the websites www.explorehockinghills.com/things-to-do/boating-canoeing-kayaking/hocking-hills-canoe-livery and www.explorehockinghills.com/things-to-do/boating-canoeing-kayaking/adventure-pro-river-trips/.

seasoned professionals, guests are led through the forest, maneuvering through bends and curves in the Polaris RZR, fully embracing the excitement of off-road exploration.

As summer draws to a close, the excitement mounts for the 7th Annual Mega Tube Float, set for August 16-18. The event offers three days of unmatched floating enjoyment in the sun, led by experts in outdoor adventure. It presents a unique chance to experience the Hocking River in a fun and laid-back atmosphere. So, gather your friends and family, mark your calendars, and prepare for an unforgettable celebration of summer's end.

For those looking to immerse themselves in nature, Adventure Pro Outdoors offers primitive camping at riverside campsites. Spend a night under the stars and then head down the river for a day of fun in the sun. Those who prefer indoor accommodations have 2-22-person cabins and lodges in Hocking Hills and Wayne National Forest.

Rediscover the joy of outdoor fun with Adventure Pro Outdoors in Hocking Hills. Whether you're seeking a thrilling off-road experience, a scenic UTV tour, a relaxing tubing trip, or a cozy stay in a cabin, they have everything you need for an unforgettable adventure.

For additional details and reservations, visit www.adventureprooutdoors.com. For the most recent updates, follow their Facebook page.



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In rural Lindsey, Ohio, the last week of July is celebrated each summer, marking the culmination of an annual tradition that finds vibrant sunflower blooms bursting into full splendor during this week every year. The beautiful blooms have inspired family trips to Lindsey to take photos, go on wagon rides through the fields or simply awe at the simple yet splendid beauty as these flowers reach for the sun.

The fields have also inspired an annual local Festival known as the "Lindsey Homecoming and Sunflower Festival". This event takes place the last Saturday of July at Wendelle Miller Park, located at 240 S Main St, in Lindsey. This year's event falls on Saturday, July 27th and promises a day filled with Kids Games, Live Entertainment, Craft Vendors, Food Trucks, BINGO, Cake Walk, Baby Royalty & Sunflower Contest, Cornhole Tournament and More!

So, whether you're a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, be sure to join us as we gather to celebrate the beauty and charm of small-town life and all things sunflowers at the Lindsey Sunflower & Homecoming Festival!

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A Celebration of Community, Culture, and the Arts

By Riley Troxell

Wayne County is about to burst into a symphony of sounds as summer approaches. The annual tradition of summer concerts is not merely an event; it's a celebration of community, culture, and the arts. As the sun warms the air and the days grow longer, residents eagerly anticipate the return of these outdoor performances that breathe life into our county. One of the most enchanting aspects of summer concerts in Wayne County is their diversity. From jazz to classical, rock to folk, there's something for every musical palate.

Beyond the music itself, these concerts showcase the rich tapestry of talent within our community. Local musicians take to the stage, their passion and skill shining brightly under the open sky. These events provide a platform for emerging artists to share their craft with a wider audience, fostering a sense of pride and camaraderie among residents.

Lake Wapusun, located in Shreve, holds a few concerts throughout the season ranging from bluegrass, and rock to country. Concerts are usually accompanied with food trucks to give you the perfect concert picnic experience. Grab your family and plan your camping adventure with live music, swimming, fishing, and so much more at Lake Wapusun RV Resort.

Downtown Wooster is known for historic buildings, unique shops, and delicious food, but did you know that from May to October you can enjoy live music downtown on the square on most Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays? Mainstreet Music is a variety of genres and forms! Check out local talent, area favorites, instrumental, and so much more. Enjoy dinner at one of our many downtown restaurants and don't forget your DORA drink to stroll downtown and listen live to local artists right in the heart of downtown Wooster.

Orrville is full of life throughout the summer. Make sure to check out the Fire in the Sky Festival around the 4th of July and enjoy carnival fun, fireworks, softball tournaments, parades, delicious food and so much more over the course of the week. This event is a local favorite and is great for all ages. A new event that will be added this year is the "Rock the Rails" in June. Keep your eyes out for more details on this event. Live music and food trucks will fill downtown Orrville.

As we eagerly await the arrival of summer, let us embrace the spirit of Wayne County's summer concerts. Let us revel in the music, support our local artists, and come together as a community to celebrate the magic of live performance. In a world often marred by division, these concerts serve as a reminder of the power of music to unite us all. So, mark your calendars, gather your loved ones, and join us for a summer filled with unforgettable melodies and cherished moments in Wayne County.

For more information about summer events, check the website visitwaynecountyohio.com or contact Visit Wayne County, 428 W Liberty Street in Wooster at 330-264-1800.



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TOP REASONS TO Visit the Chautauqua Lake Erie Region

By Victoria Burch

There's no shortage of summer fun in the Chautauqua Lake Erie Region of Western New York. Many vacationers come to the area to enjoy our five lakes while boating, fishing, and swimming or to explore the surrounding countryside and beautiful, natural landscapes. In addition to outdoor adventures, Chautauqua County is also home to a variety of unique cultural attractions that highlight art, history and more. As if that's not enough to have you packing your bags, the summer months are filled with events that are sure to add another layer of fun to your trip. Learn more about these can't-miss events below.

Chautauqua Institution Celebrates 150th Anniversary Season

Chautauqua Institution is a picturesque, lakeside National Historic District campus with a nine-week summer season that features programming focusing on helping visitors find intellectual growth and renewal through music, dance, opera, theater, and visual arts. The 2024 season will mark the 150th anniversary of the first summer season and will run June 22nd through



August 25th. While the entire season will be an extra special celebration of this milestone, week seven (August 3rd-10th) will be dedicated to celebrating Chautauqua's sesquicentennial.

Lucille Ball Comedy Festival

Each summer during early August, the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival celebrates the famous Jamestown native, Lucille Ball from the hit TV show *I Love Lucy*. This festival, hosted by the National Comedy Center, will take place August 1st-4th and will include over 50 live events including Stand Up Comedy Showcases, Late Night Comedy, Block Parties, Lucy themed events and more. Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2024 headliners and to grab your tickets!



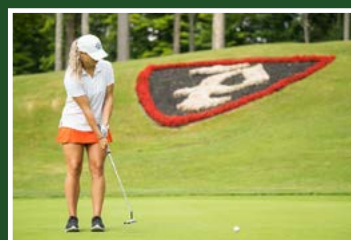
40th Anniversary of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute and 90th Anniversary of the Peterson Field Guide

2024 is a year of monumental anniversaries for many attractions in the Chautauqua Lake Erie Region.

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) was founded 40 years ago in honor of Chautauqua County native Roger Tory Peterson, one of the most famed artist-naturalists in the world. Peterson is known for his *Field Guide to the Birds*, which is the best-selling field guide of all time and was first published 90 years ago. RTPI is a nature art museum that is home to the largest collection of Peterson's original artwork and highlights the works of current, well-known nature artists. To mark both anniversaries, the museum is offering a suite of special anniversary programs and exhibitions.

See a full list of upcoming events in Chautauqua County on the event calendar of TourChautauqua.com or call the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau for more information or to request a free copy of the Chautauqua County Travel Guide at 866.908.4569.

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FROM BANDS TO BREWS: West Virginia Is Your Summer Destination

– By Trish Mann –

For nearly a decade, the Mountaineer Brewfest in Wheeling, West Virginia, has been a highlight for beer lovers and community supporters. As we approach the 10th anniversary, August 17, 2024, it's time to celebrate the best of West Virginia's craft and microbreweries while continuing the tradition of supporting local charities.

Since its inception, the Mountaineer Brewfest has proudly showcased the unique flavors of the region's brewing talent, allowing attendees to explore a range of craft beers. But the heart of the festival lies in its commitment to giving back. Over the past nine years, the event has made a significant difference in the community, donating over \$211,000 to local charities. This wouldn't have been possible without the collective effort of sponsors, volunteers, patrons, and organizations.

This year's festival, set against the picturesque backdrop of Wheeling's Heritage Port, promises an exciting lineup of activities. Guests have an opportunity for an exclusive VIP tasting session. This allows them to savor the finest craft and microbrews from West Virginia's top breweries.

The 10th anniversary will be extra special, with a brewer competition, opening ceremonies, and a beer garden. Plus, there will be live entertainment and artisan food vendors to enjoy. The Mountaineer Brewfest invites you to join them in celebrating a

decade of delicious brews and generous giving. Whether you're a craft beer enthusiast or simply looking for a fun way to support local causes, this event is for you.

Visit the website www.mountaineerbrewfest.com for more details and to purchase tickets. Let's raise a glass to 10 years of great beer and more significant community contributions.

In 2024, West Virginia will host two exceptional music festivals celebrating the region's rich traditions. The Back Home Festival in Martinsville (June 28-30) offers a vibrant mix of bluegrass, country, and folk music. Featuring local and national artists, it's ideal for families and those seeking Appalachian culture's warmth.

Following this, the Heritage Music Blues Festival in Wheeling (August 9-11) showcases the deep roots of blues music with a lineup of talented performers. Set in the historic city of Wheeling, this festival is a must-visit for blues enthusiasts. However, anyone interested in exploring the genre's soulful sounds will enjoy this celebration of the blues.

The festivals and the Mountaineer Brewfest are perfect events for anyone seeking a mix of great tunes, craft beer, and local charm against the scenic beauty of West Virginia. As summer highlights, they are must-visit destinations for all music and beer enthusiasts.





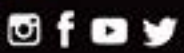
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The Ohio Hills Folk Festival is a Summer Tradition with a Heart

By Trish Mann

The Ohio Hills Folk Festival, held from July 10-13 in Quaker City, Ohio, celebrates tradition and community spirit. As the longest-running festival in Ohio, it has been a cornerstone of cultural celebration since its humble beginnings in 1871. As it marks its 120th anniversary this year, join in where history comes alive, and togetherness is celebrated in every corner.

The festival's roots trace back to a simple fair started in 1871. Although the original fair eventually ended, the spirit of celebration was rekindled in 1904 as "Fall Entertainment" and later as "Homecoming." Since then, it has been an unbroken tradition, weaving through the generations and becoming a cherished part of the community's fabric.

Quaker City bustles with excitement from Wednesday to Saturday following the 4th of July. The festival is a playground for children and adults, offering activities that promise fun and laughter for everyone. Engage in friendly competition with bike races, kiddie tractor pulls, and frog jumping contests. The little ones will delight in the kiddie parade, while adults enjoy browsing the flea market or savoring homemade ice cream at the Country Store.

The festival's heart pulses with parade rhythms, from classic car displays to the grand Philip Carpenter Memorial Mile Long Parade. Artisans showcase their crafts, revealing the region's rich artistic heritage and food enthusiasts can savor diverse offerings or participate in pie and cake-baking contests.

This year, the animals of The Columbus Zoo will visit and add an extra layer of excitement to our festivities. For music lovers, there will be a choice of live performances across three stages, featuring genres from country to rock. As night falls, a spectacular fireworks display will light the sky with a burst of color and joy.

The passion of its volunteers is what drives this celebration. The Ohio Hills Folk Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Ohio Festival and Events Association member, thriving on community spirit and unity. Join this enchanting journey through time and tradition in Quaker City and experience the magic. Every moment becomes a cherished memory, and every experience brings you closer to the heart of this vibrant community. Let's celebrate the enduring spirit of folk nestled in the hills that cradle this area. For more information, visit the myoff.com website or the Ohio Hills Folk Festival Facebook page.





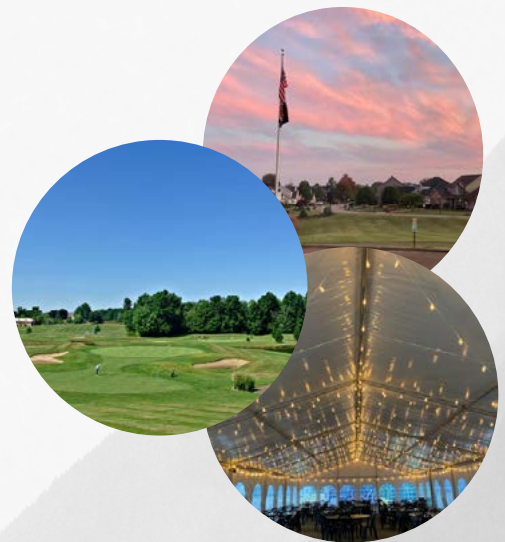
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LIVE MUSIC BLOOMS AT SALLY BUFFALO PARK

By **Candy S. Collins, BS**



Mark At The Park is a concert venue in the heart of Sally Buffalo Park in Cadiz, Ohio; it's a vibrant center of musical talent and community spirit. Now in its second year, this charming outdoor arena has quickly become a beloved destination for music lovers seeking an unforgettable experience.

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Sally Buffalo Park, Mark At The Park offers an idyllic setting for live performances. The spacious outdoor theater, designed to host a wide range of musical events, ensures every visitor enjoys an excellent view of the stage. Each concert is an immersive sensory experience with state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems.

Mark At The Park is more than just a place to listen to music; it's a gathering spot for friends and families to enjoy a night out. With multiple concession stands offering a variety of food and beverages and designated areas for merchandise sales, it's a complete entertainment package.

Get ready for an extraordinary night as Mark At The Park launches its second season on June 7. Emerson Drive

headlines the event, bringing their "One for the Road" tour for a memorable performance. Special guests Love and Theft, showcasing their #1 hit "Angel Eyes," and Isaac Cole, a former American Idol contestant, will join them, promising to electrify the stage. It's a night filled with live music, delectable food, and refreshing drinks you cannot miss.

Acting as a catalyst for the local economy and culture, Mark At The Park draws in visitors and provides a platform for local artists to shine. As it enters its second year, the venue continues to enhance the cultural landscape of Cadiz, Ohio, and promises a calendar filled with exciting performances.

Mark At The Park is more than just a concert venue; it's a place where music and nature intertwine to create unforgettable moments. Join us for a season of fantastic music and warm community vibes. For more concert announcements and to get your tickets, follow Sally Buffalo Park on Facebook, www.facebook.com/TheMarkAtThePark/.



VISIT THE TROY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IN MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO

By Candy S. Collins, BS



The Troy Strawberry Festival is a much-anticipated annual event in Miami County, Ohio, attracting over 175,000 visitors yearly. This free festival celebrates community, culture, and, of course, strawberries.

Live entertainment is a festival staple, with various performances scheduled throughout the weekend. Music fills the air, creating a lively atmosphere that compliments the festive mood. Arts and crafts vendors are also on hand, offering a selection of unique and handmade items that make perfect souvenirs or gifts.

Family-friendly activities ensure that there's something for everyone at the festival. There are plenty of fun and friendly competition opportunities, from the Strawberry Pie Eating Contest to the Tennis Shootout and Strawberry Classic Run. The Cruise-In is a hit with car enthusiasts, while the array of family activities keeps the little ones entertained.

Of course, the star of the show is the delicious strawberry-forward food. With over 50 food and beverage vendors spread throughout downtown Troy, visitors can indulge in various strawberry-based dishes. The festival celebrates all things strawberry, from classic favorites like strawberry donuts and shortcakes to more inventive creations. Each food vendor at the festival partners with a Miami County non-profit organization, ensuring that your indulgence supports a good cause.

For the latest information on the festival's schedule and events, visitors are encouraged to check the official website, www.troystrawberryfest.com. The Strawberry Festival in Miami County is a vibrant and welcoming event that offers something for everyone, making it a perfect way to kick off the summer season.



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Endless Mountain Music Festival: A Symphony of Stars and Sounds in Potter-Tioga

By Candy S. Collins, BS

The Endless Mountain Music Festival (EMMF) is a highlight of the summer in the Potter-Tioga region of Pennsylvania. This annual event attracts music lovers from far and wide to enjoy a diverse lineup against the backdrop of the endless mountains in north-central Pennsylvania.

The EMMF has a rich history. It was established to bring high-quality music to the region and showcase the area's natural beauty. Over the years, the festival has grown in popularity and stature, becoming a destination for music enthusiasts who appreciate the blend of classical, contemporary, and folk music.

The festival's lineup is always eclectic, featuring a range of genres and styles. This year, attendees can look forward to an exciting journey through music, from the sounds of Neil Diamond to the grooves of Funk, courtesy of Pope. One of the highlights is the EMMF Brass Under the Stars, an enchanting performance that promises to leave the audience in awe.

The EMMF offers more than just music; it's a chance to explore the scenic Potter-Tioga region and immerse in an experience that blends music, nature, and community. As the festival evolves, it continues to celebrate the region's cultural richness and foster a sense of community among music lovers.



For more information on the festival lineup, times, locations, and ticket costs visit www.endlessmountain.net. To learn more about the Potter-Tioga region and plan your adventure, visit www.visitpottertioga.com. Enjoy this opportunity to immerse yourself in the magic of music and nature at the Endless Mountain Music Festival.

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MAY 10 - SEPT. 29

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DEPARTURE TIME: 12:30P

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY:
CLASSIC TOUR - 2HR RIDE

DEPARTURE TIMES: 10:30A & 2:30P

FALL HOURS: SEPT. 30 - OCTOBER 29

DEPARTURE TIMES: 12:30P & 3:45P

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Join us for the *Vintage Ohio Wine Festival, Kirtland*, the first Friday and Saturday in August: Ohio's ORIGINAL wine festival

Winter Wine Affair, Youngstown, each March to break your 'Cabin Fever', *Vintage Ohio South, Springfield*, each May to greet the spring and summer in southwest Ohio, *Ohio's Island Wine Festival, Put-in-Bay* each June to celebrate island life, and *V.I.N.O. Wine & Food Festival, Bowling Green*, each October to greet the Fall and kick off Ohio's grape harvest

Take a *Day Trip* and discover the wineries in your own backyard. We have created more than a dozen Day Trips for wine lovers to explore family owned wineries all around the state. Then plan to join us in the months of April, May, June, July, September, and October for special FREE events to collect signatures and win prizes along one of the selected trails.

Throughout the year, watch for wine trail events: *Chocolate Trails, Tannenbaum Trail, Deck the Wreath Trail*, and the *Wine n' Bloom Trail*

To learn about these and other events, sign up for our news-letter or visit OhioWines.org/events



The Island Wine Festival at Put-in-Bay

By Donniella Winchell

A wine festival like no other. Lake breezes, sparkling blue water, an island vibe, wine history along with great wines, music, golf cart cruising, a little shopping and lots of fun! On June 22, beginning at 11 am, join a dozen of Ohio's family wineries for a festival of Ohio wines at Put-in-Bay, on the grounds adjacent to the historic Heineman Winery. But the Wine Festival will be just one part of a wonderful day on Ohio's best known lake destination: The Key West of the Midwest.

Board one of the Miller Boat Line vessels at the end of Route 53, sit on the upper deck, take in the sunshine and enjoy the lake's fresh air. After about 45 minutes as the boat floats across the bay, wind down and disconnect from the rest of the world, land on the island and choose to take a leisurely stroll (though somewhat of a lengthy walk) or rent a golf cart to wind your way through quiet paths with brief peeks of blue water on the way to the winery located on Catawba Avenue.

As you approach the festival's field, stop by the Historical Society display to discover some real treasures and support their

efforts to preserve the stories of the island's founders and its "Wine Island" roots.

Then, for a couple of hours, join the festivities at the Island Wine Festival to sip and sample with winemakers from across the state who will be pouring red, white, blush, dry, sweet and fruit wines for you to enjoy.

Sip and sample until you find a favorite. You will surely discover wines you will love. Then relax with a glass or two while sitting under the shade of trees that have provided a relaxing place for visitors for decades. And, plan to take a couple of bottles home to re-create that "island experience" this summer when you return to sipping on your own back deck.



Heineman Winery

Local vendors and food purveyors will offer some easy to enjoy light, lunchtime fare, while island artisans will showcase many of their talents.

When the event closes, hop on your golf cart (or perhaps walk again) toward the vibrant downtown area of Put-in-Bay. Explore the shops, ride to the top of Perry's monument and take in a panoramic view of the entire Bass Island complex in Lake Erie's beautiful western basin.

Before sunset, head back to the ferry dock and watch as the sun drops to the horizon and contributes

colors of pink and blue to the skyline as you return to the mainland and find your car, with take home bottles in hand to remember a wonderful day in this magical place.

More details and tickets are available at www.OhioWines.org and are \$32 for wine samplers and \$10 for non-drinkers.





2024 RUBBERDUCKS SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					5 ALT 7:05	6 ALT 8:05
7 ALT 1:05		9 @RIC 6:35	10 @RIC 6:35	11 @RIC 6:35	12 @RIC 6:35	13 @RIC 6:05
14 @RIC 1:35		16 ERI 6:35	17 ERI 6:35	18 ERI 6:35	19 ERI 7:05	20 ERI 6:05
21 ERI 1:05		23 @ALT 6:00	24 @ALT 11:00	25 @ALT 6:00	26 @ALT 6:00	27 @ALT 4:00
28 @ALT 1:00		30 RIC 6:35				

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 RIC 6:35	2 RIC 6:35	3 RIC 7:05	4 RIC 6:35
5 RIC 1:05		7 @BOW 6:35	8 @BOW 12:05	9 @BOW 6:35	10 @BOW 7:05	11 @BOW 6:35
12 @BOW 1:05		14 ALT 11:05	15 ALT 6:35	16 ALT 6:35	17 ALT 7:05	18 ALT 7:05
19 ALT 1:05		21 @H8G 11:00	22 @H8G 6:35	23 @H8G 6:35	24 @H8G 7:05	25 @H8G 6:00
26 @H8G 6:35		28 NH 6:35	29 NH 6:35	30 NH 6:35	31 NH 7:05	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 NH 7:05
2 NH 1:05		4 @POR 6:00	5 @POR 6:00	6 @POR 11:00	7 @POR 6:00	8 @POR 6:00
9 @POR 1:00		11 @HFD 7:10	12 @HFD 7:10	13 @HFD 7:10	14 @HFD 7:30	15 @HFD 6:10
16 @HFD 1:30		18 BNG 6:35	19 BNG 6:35	20 BNG 6:35	21 BNG 7:05	22 BNG 7:05
23 BNG 1:05		25 @ALT 6:00	26 @ALT 6:00	27 @ALT 6:00	28 @ALT 6:00	29 @ALT 6:00
30 @ALT 6:00						

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 ERI 6:35	2 ERI 6:35	3 ERI 7:05	4 @ERI 6:35	5 @ERI 6:35	6 @ERI 6:05
7		9 @REA 7:00	10 @REA 7:00	11 @REA 7:00	12 @REA 7:00	13 @REA 6:45
14 @REA 5:15		16	17	18	19 RIC 7:05	20 RIC 7:05
21 RIC 1:05		23 BOW 12:05	24 BOW 6:35	25 BOW 6:35	26 BOW 7:05	27 BOW 7:05
28 BOW 1:05		30 @H8G 6:30	31 @H8G 6:30			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 @H8G 12:00	2 @H8G 7:05	3 @H8G 8:00
4 @H8G 1:00		6 REA 6:35	7 REA 6:35	8 REA 6:35	9 REA 7:05	10 REA 7:05
11 REA 1:05		13 @ERI 6:05	14 @ERI 6:05	15 @ERI 6:05	16 @ERI 6:05	17 @ERI 6:05
18 @ERI 1:05		20 H8G 12:05	21 H8G 6:35	22 H8G 6:35	23 H8G 7:05	24 H8G 6:05
25 H8G 1:05		27 BOW 12:05	28 BOW 6:35	29 BOW 6:35	30 BOW 7:05	31 BOW 6:05

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 BOW 6:05		3 @RIC 6:35	4 @RIC 6:35	5 @RIC 6:35	6 @RIC 6:35	7 @RIC 6:45
8 @RIC 1:35		10 HFD 6:35	11 HFD 6:35	12 HFD 6:35	13 HFD 7:05	14 HFD 6:05
15 HFD 6:05						

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