



Annual Lewiston 'Spring Fling' celebration set for May 12

Village of Lewiston Recreation Department
Press Release and Photo

Spring has finally arrived in Lewiston – and with it, the 29th annual Lewiston family “Spring Fling.”

This is a way to celebrate that winter is over, and the time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

“Spring Fling” is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 12, at the Red Brick Municipal Building, 145 N. Fourth St. It is sponsored by the Village of Lew-

iston Recreation Department. The event is held rain or shine.

The “Spring Fling” committee has kept all of the favorite events this year – and brought in several new ones!

“Spring Fling” will open with a one-mile family fun run. The race will start at 11 a.m. and is all on flat ground. You must pre-register for the race online at www.villageoflewiston.net/recreation-home. Race shirts and medals will be given to all registered youth ages 14 and under.

There is no fee for the fun run.

A basket auction will run from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and there is a wide selection of prizes – from local businesses and attractions for children and adults. All proceeds will go toward recreational programming.

Activities at the event include a petting zoo, fun putt golf, face painter, balloon sculpture, as well as Bounce-n-Around. Along with the “Spring Fling” activities, free snacks and drinks will be provided at no charge.

This event is open to residents and non-residents. It is a great way to renew friendships and to welcome new residents to Lewiston. There is no charge for the events. Bring family and friends.

The Village of Lewiston Recreation Department sponsors this annual event. For more information, call 716-754-1990 or email recreation@villageoflewiston.net.

OFN to host 'Native Nations at Niagara'

Old Fort Niagara Press Release

Old Fort Niagara will host its second annual smoke dance competition, “Native Nations at Niagara,” on Saturday, May 11.

The smoke dance was originally a Haudenosaunee war dance, primarily danced by men, but has expanded within competition dance to include and highlight female dancers.

The fort will be welcoming local and nationwide competitors to dance throughout the day. Visitors will be able to watch as dancers compete for prizes, learn about traditional and historic Native regalia, and talk to the fort’s interpretive staff about the connection that Fort Niagara has to the Haudenosaunee

and other Native communities during OFN’s almost 300-year history. Visitors will also be able to peruse a variety of native crafts persons, artisans, and food vendors.

Several stories have evolved around the naming of the smoke dance. In one story, the dancers’ fast spinning in small circles is believed to emulate the curling of smoke. Another story revolves around Haudenosaunee longhouses. In these dwellings, smoke would sometimes linger. To help the smoke dissipate dancers would try to “chase” the wafts of smoke through the hole in the ceiling by swiftly dancing in circles in an attempt to push the smoke up out of the house.

While dancers appear to move effortlessly,

the world of Haudenosaunee dance is complex. Each dance is dependent upon different drumbeats, different chants and specific foot movements that each individual dancer can interpret into their own style.

New in 2024 will be the inclusion of hoop dance demonstrations by a national champion Native hoop dancer. The hoop dance is a traditional celebration of the creation, mother earth and healing. The dance’s style mimics the movements of animals such as horses, birds and even insects.

Old Fort Niagara would like to stress our gratitude to the participants and visitors for facilitating the sharing of Native cultures and knowledge. These perspec-

tives have historically been overlooked and undervalued, and we look forward to continued collaboration with our local Indigenous communities to reinforce the importance of the Haudenosaunee’s historical presence at the fort.

Hours for the event at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the dance competition running from noon until 4 p.m. The public is invited to watch and learn about this important piece of regional culture.

This event is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and North-west Bank.

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