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Fall destination Baker Farm Market & U Pick has apples, pumpkins & much more



Baker Farm and U Pick is a popular fall destination for many in the heart of Niagara. (Photo by Terry Duffy) • Apples photo courtesy of Baker Farm and U Pick.

BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

Fantastic fall weather has been blessing us for weeks. Farm harvest time is peaking, and those visits to area farms in search of such fall items as pumpkins, apples, ciders and assorted Halloween goodies have never been better.

Of course, there are many farm operations in Buffalo-Niagara that offer this experience, but most are limited to weekend visits, require a reservation, and may even charge admission.

And then there's Baker Farm Market & U Pick. An apple u-pick and seasonal farm operation located at 2100 Youngstown Lockport Road, this one has it all. As in, fresh fall vegetable harvests, mums, tons of apples, pumpkins, Halloween selections, farm wagon rides, and cider. Best thing: The site is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, and no reservations are required.

Gloria Baker, who operates Barker Farm & U Pick with her husband, Jeff, invites visitors from

WNY and nearby Canada to make the trip out to Ransomville and discover what this three-generation family farm has to offer.

"A lot of people are finding us, because, basically, we are the only orchard that's open during the week," she said. "We're actually

filled up with school trips – we have one tomorrow – and starting next Tuesday, we have them straight through the month. We have Lew-

Baker said, "We got a lot of apples; the apples grew, it was a great season for Plentiful apples. But it's kind of weird, the way the summer was. Some varieties are earlier; some varieties are later than normal."

For those in search of fall harvest favorites and Halloween fare, Baker said this farm, like many others, did contend with weather and growing issues over the past season, but things are full-steam-ahead for fall.

"We don't have our U-pick pumpkins this year, but we're bringing pumpkins from our other patch over," Baker said.

She added, "The mums are going quick, and we've got some good prices on those, too."

"We'll have a lot of pumpkins, a

lot of gourds," Baker said. "We also have pretty much anything that people want to decorate, with the straw bales, the corn stalks; we're going to get some Indian corn in. And then we pick vegetables daily, whatever is ripe out there we'll have."

"A big seller is our cider. It's fresh-pressed from Roberts out in Medina – they've done it for us for years. This past weekend we sold out."

She said autumn visits to this farm, located in the heart of Niagara County's produce region, are immensely popular with residents from near and far. In fact, "it's tradition to come this (holiday) weekend. Families come every year, and the kids get older, and sometimes they bring their kids; they make their fun."

The farm will be open throughout the weekend, including during the early Sunday morning Bills-

Jags game in London. "We usually put the game on; we have an apple hut that's open," Baker said.

Visitors also will find plenty 'o pumpkins for the taking, wagon tours throughout the scenic orchards, apples and, of course, cider.

"We'll have hot cider by the glass this weekend. We'll have some spices in it; you have to check it out," Baker said.

Baker Farm and U Pick is on Facebook and online at www.bakerfarmmarket.com.

"We're a third-generation family, and we want people to know that this is the place to come and pick apples," she said. "We have all kinds of families that visit. We don't require reservations, and we don't make them (bring) bags out there for picking. It's economical to visit with us."

IN THE NEWS

Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame announces 2023 inductees

The Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame board of directors has announced this year's inductees: Tony Beccari, Nori Bucci, Rick Catanesse, Cynthia Dawdy, John DeRose, Nina DeGregorio, Dave Gara, Lynn Ligammari, Al Masocco, Frank Scarfone, and The MacKenzie Highlanders.

In honor of the late Dr. Samuel "Saxman" Morreale, this year's Lifetime Music Support Award will be presented to music writer Thom Jennings.

To celebrate and honor their dedication and accomplishments, this year's induction ceremony will be held Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the Bear's Den Showroom at Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino in Niagara Falls. Tickets for this event will be available through the box office website: <https://boxofficeicketsales.com>.

The Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization created to preserve, praise and promote generations of the diverse musical culture and heritage of the greater Niagara Falls New York geographical area. It noted, "We recognize individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution through performance, education or promotion of music in our community. For the most up-to-date information, see our website <https://nfmusic.org> or Facebook Page: Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame."

Niagara Falls Winter Concert Series starts Oct. 22 with Randy & Tal Bachman
 Press Release
 NiagaraLIVE is proud to present the Niagara Falls Winter Concert Series with a star-studded kickoff at The Rapids Theatre on Oct. 22. Canadian music legend Randy

Bachman and his son, Tal Bachman, will team up as the duo Bachman & Bachman for a special stop in Niagara Falls.

You'll know Randy from his success with the Guess Who and BTO. With hits like "Takin' Care of Business," "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet," "Let It Ride" and so many more, his music has formed the soundtrack of hundreds of thousands of lives around the world.

For this special concert series, Randy and Tal will be presenting acoustic versions of some of their hit songs, along with some of the new songs they've written together, slated for release later this year. Along the way, they'll be sharing never-before-heard stories about their experiences as father and son in music: life, loss, love, estrangement, reconciliation, failure ND success.

Concertgoers who purchase VIP tickets will have the chance to meet Randy after the concert.

The Niagara concert series is set to run from October through March 2024, with future artists to be announced soon! Tickets are now available at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/randy-bachman-tal-bachman-bachman-bachman-tickets-717538907187>. The Niagara Concert Series is proudly organized by NiagaraLIVE and has partnered with the Sheraton in Niagara Falls as the exclusive hotel partner.

Mount St. Mary's St. Francis Guild to host autumn auction

Catholic Health Press Release

The Mount St. Mary's St. Francis Guild will host a harvest auction beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Legacy Drive Clubhouse, located at 785 Legacy Drive in Lewiston. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Neighborhood Health Center's annual Christmas Shoppe, led by Sister Nora Sweeney. The Christmas Shoppe assists needy families in the region during the holidays.

In addition to recognizing this year's honorees, the 2023 campaign kicked off with two donations. The

Admission to the harvest auction is \$5. There will be opportunities to bid on numerous fall items and participate in various raffles. Wine, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

"This is a wonderful way to celebrate the gorgeous fall season," stated Carolyn Moore, manager of public relations and community affairs at Mount St. Mary's. "Bring a friend and enjoy the festivities. It couldn't benefit a better cause. Sister Nora's Christmas Shoppe helps so many families in our community and this is a great way to support these efforts."

Everyone is welcome. Registration and advanced tickets are not needed.

United Way of Greater Niagara announces new focus at breakfast

United Way of Greater Niagara held its annual awards breakfast and campaign kickoff on Friday, Sept. 22, at Niagara Riverside Resort, serving as the official start to its annual campaign and honoring local individuals and organizations who continue to make a difference in the Greater Niagara community.

This year's awards and honorees included the President's Award to M&T Bank, the Norman Sinclair Humanitarian Award to Rachel Brennan, the Service Cup Award to Mental Health Association in Niagara County, the Shining Star Award to Maid of the Mist, the Joseph C. Weber III Think Positive Think United Way Award to Joanne Beaton, and the AFL/CIO Russell Quarantello Community Service Award to Scott Jones.

"We are so proud to honor these outstanding individuals and organizations for their exceptional dedication, leadership and contributions that have made a profound impact on United Way and our community," President and CEO Andrea Gray said.

In addition to recognizing this year's honorees, the 2023 campaign kicked off with two donations. The

AFL/CIO Niagara Orleans Central Labor Council presented a check for \$24,000 from its "Annual Labors Night at the Races." Now in its 14th year, the event has raised a total of \$207,000 for the United Way, and contributes that to all the sponsors, union affiliates and friends of labor that make the event possible.

Secondly, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 237/NECA National Electrical Contractors Association presented a check for \$25,000. These funds are raised by the hours worked per IBEW Local 237 member and put into a fund that is donated to United Way.

New Focus
 United Way of Greater Niagara officially announced its mission has shifted to reflect a new community-driven focus that will support programs that measurably benefit the next generation of people in Niagara County.

A press release stated, "This new direction, created with community feedback, will guide everything United Way does in the fight for a better future for everyone in our community through a new focus, 'Growing Up United.'"

What is 'Growing Up United'?
 The United Way explained, "Growing Up United" is a commitment to reinvest in a better tomorrow at its source: our

youth. United Way remains dedicated to serving our community, and donations will continue to fund local nonprofit programs for those in need. But now, we are doing even more to maximize the impact of every dollar we raise because, when you give to United Way of Greater Niagara, you are measurably fostering a generation that is driven, compassionate, and equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow!"

For more information on United Way's new direction, visit www.uwgn.org.

Windsong Mobile Mammography to visit Lewiston Senior Center

By the Niagara County Public Information Office

Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers announced Windsong Mobile Mammography will host an event at the Lewiston Senior Center on Tuesday, Nov. 7, to conduct breast cancer screenings. Appointments must be scheduled with Windsong prior to the event.

"As we have been hosting these events in recent years, I am very

pleased that so many members of our community have taken advantage of this opportunity to have this breast screening done right in our backyard," Myers said. "Too many of us know we need to get our mammogram but never quite get around to scheduling it, so the mobile unit makes it as easy as possible."

The Nov. 7 event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lewiston Senior Center located at 4361 Lower River Road. To request an appointment, call Windsong at 716-929-9494 or visit its website at <https://windsongwny.com/request-an-appointment/>.

Windsong's Mobile Mammography unit accepts all major insurances. However, if one does not have health insurance, they may be eligible for a mammogram at no cost. Call Windsong for further information.

"As a breast cancer survivor, I know that early detection is the key to battling breast cancer," Myers said. "So, if you have been putting off scheduling your screening, do not wait any more. And call soon, as appointments fill up fast."

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