

# Niagara County Fair starts Aug. 2

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

The 2023 edition of the Niagara County Fair opens Wednesday, Aug. 2, for five days of fun at the fairgrounds, 4467 Lake Ave., Lockport.

Presented by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County, this fair is regarded as the largest youth-oriented event of its type in New York. It continues to Sunday, Aug. 6, with upward of 50,000 visitors expected.

It all gets underway at 8 a.m. Wednesday with opening ceremonies and the return of the Farm-City Breakfast, found this year next to the Milk Bar on the fairgrounds. The event is sponsored by Niagara County Community College in cooperation with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County.

Organizer Donna Eick posted on Facebook, "The kids work hard all year with projects and taking excellent care of their animals and so deserve to be recognized and encouraged. 4-H offers outstanding life lessons."

For ticket information on the breakfast, contact Eick at 716-622-2001.

4-H is a big part of this year's happening, with youth members from throughout Niagara County expected to participate in a number of animal shows, science-based displays, competitions and programs for awards and prizes. A sampling of 4-H events on the fair schedule includes horse shows; swine, beef cattle and dairy cattle exhibitions; rabbit shows; dairy milking demonstrations; poultry displays; sheep displays and feline shows.

"These young people are working hard to earn Excellent (blue), Good (red) or Worthy (white) ribbons and to earn the honor of representing Niagara County at the NY State Fair," the Cornell Cooperative Extension stated in a release.

From Wednesday through Sunday, visitors can also check out a host of activities on the fairgrounds.



These include a full schedule of 4-H programs; events such as pie baking competitions; daily entertainment with 13 live performances scheduled; plus historical and educational displays; K-9 and police demonstrations; the spectacular midway, vendors, foods and beverage offerings, and games galore.

Organizers report entries are still being accepted for the pie-baking competition, which is open to any amateur pie baker of any age who is a state resident. No professional bakers are permitted. Entry classes include cherry, berry, cream, apple, savory, grown in New York, peach and specialty/other.

For more information, contact Amanda Henning at 716-433-8839, ext. 231.

The WNY Home Wine Competition 2023 is open to all amateur

winemakers and cider makers, ages 21 and over, who are residents of New York or Southern Ontario. Entry continues to July 28. For more information on categories and entry procedures, contact Henning at the above number.

Hours for this year's fair are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10 per person, with children age 6 and under admitted free. On Sunday, fair admission is \$20 per carload or \$7 per person.

For more information, including the full schedule, a listing of fair foods, performers and ride ticket prices, visit <https://cceniagara-county.org/niagara-county-fair> or call 716-433-8839.

## Lauren Daigle, Fairy House Festival at Artpark

Christian music superstar, "American Idol" alum and recent guest on "Live with Kelly and Mark," Lauren Daigle made her debut on the Artpark Outdoor Amphitheater stage last Friday. A crowd of more than 4,000 raised its hands in song, celebration and enthusiasm as the singer performed her biggest hits, as well as tunes from her new, self-titled album.

Josh Garrels opened the concert. Child Fund International presented a look at children in need – and an opportunity for sponsorship.

Imagination came to life Saturday, as Artpark & Company presented the annual Fairy House Festival. The event featured a drum circle, crafts, costumed characters, live music, photo opportunities, and a "secret" garden filled with fairy houses – and even more of the above!

A press release explained, "Now in its 13th year, Artpark's Fairy House Festival has evolved from an art walk of miniature fairy houses installed in the park by both local community and professional artists to an international, interdisciplinary and immersive performing arts festival with interactive performances by international, national and local actors, performers and musicians presented in the setting of the park overlooking the Niagara Gorge."

New this year was celebration of Ukrainian culture – "Its mystic and ancient traditions, as well as its vibrant modern art."

Featured acts and artists included Mucca Pazza – both at Emerald Grove and on the main lawn; the Artpark Fairy Orchestra; the Artpark Fairy ensemble directed by Vlad Troitskyi; art inspired by Maria Prymachenko produced by Bethany Krull; the art of costume by Uta Bekaia; and the art of living puppetry by Luna Gomborg.

The festival was directed by Troitskyi, a theater director from Kyiv, Ukraine, the founder of the CCA Dakha Theater and GogolFest, and the founder of the DakhaBrakha band. The press release noted he worked with 20 local actors and artists on creating a Ukrainian-inspired celebration costumed by Bekaia, with installations by Krull inspired by the art of Ukrainian artist Prymachenko.

"Whimsical and enchanting Artpark Fairies and roaming musicians" were outfitted in costume creations by Bekaia, a multimedia artist residing and working in New York and Tbilisi. "He creates performances and installations inhabited with wearable sculptures, exploring his historical cultural background and cycles of the universe."

Currently, he is a resident artist at ART OMI, New York; and in partnership with ERTI Gallery, Tbilisi.

(Photos by Joshua Maloni; see more at [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com))

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