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# Everyday People to bring '60s-era sounds to Peach Festival

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief  
 As most visitors realize, the Niagara County Peach Festival is much more than just peaches. It's a celebration of community. From the various competitions to the cheerleader displays, the many on-site vendors at Academy Park, the Center Street parade to on-stage entertainment, the

Peach Festival certainly provides the venue to showcase the area's best.

And what of this year's entertainment? Festival visitors to the Alphonso I. DiMino Memorial Band Shell will discover the offerings cover the bases when it comes to spanning the generations of music. On stage entertainment opened Thursday with

Nerds Gone Wild. On Friday, the '70s southern-blues rock sounds of the Thurman Brothers Band from Niagara Falls – a River Region favorite – will entertain. And come Saturday, Western New York's Terry Buchwald returns with his legendary "Tribute to the King" Elvis Presley performance.

On Sunday, forgo the NFL season-opening games on the tube (remember: the Bills-Jets game is Monday night), and relive your high school days with a performance by Everyday People from 3-6 p.m. on the band shell stage. The band, featuring musicians Bob Volkman, Tony Beccari, Rich DelZoppo, Russ Previte, Tom Greco, Frank Fracassi and Carl Filbert, traces its beginnings to the '60s pre-urban renewal days of Niagara Falls – from student

performances and contests held back then at Niagara Falls High School where they attended, to the Old Falls Street clubs where they performed.

Everyday People was known back then as the band "Heatwave," with the name taken from the '60s-era Motown hit of the same title by Martha and the Vandellas. The group won contests at NFHS and went on to gain national honors in a New York City contest. Following graduation, many of the band members would return to the Falls to perform locally.

Today, they are known as Everyday People and, for more than 15 years, they have been entertaining audiences in Buffalo-Niagara. On Sunday, their return visit to the band shell will again

spur some special memories of that unique 1960s-era for many boomer-era Peach Festival attendees.

Lewiston Kiwanis organizers said this weekend's festival entertainment offerings in the band shell are presented free of charge to visitors.

For more on the Niagara County Peach Festival, visit [www.niagaracountypeachfestival.org](http://www.niagaracountypeachfestival.org).

Everyday People (Submitted)



**65th Annual Lewiston Kiwanis Peach Festival**  
**Friday, Sept. 8**

Opening ceremonies will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, with a rendition of both the American and Canadian national anthems. This year's emcee for the opening ceremonies will be WEBR's veteran talk-show host and Buffalo Broadcast Hall of Fame inductee Tom Darro.

At 5:30 p.m., an "All-Star Cheerleading Competition" will be held on the band shell stage and feature local units representing youth football and all-star cheering squads. At 8:30 p.m., The Thurman Brothers Band will perform, playing until the 11 p.m. closing.

**Saturday, Sept. 9**

The morning of Sept. 9 will feature the Peach Festival parade on Center Street at 11 a.m. Serving as parade marshal will be WGRZ-TV Channel 2 morning show anchor Pete Gallivan. Serving as parade announcer once again this year will be longtime radio personality Brandy Scrufari. This year's parade will feature 70 units, six marching bands and five dance units.

Peach Blossom and Peach Fuzz contests for the youngsters will also take place on Saturday on the Academy Park stage at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., respectively.

Peach Queen contestants will conduct a fashion show on stage at 6 p.m.

The popular "Tribute to Elvis with Terry Buchwald" will follow at 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 10**

On Sunday, the stage schedule includes a dance showcase from noon to 2 p.m.

Everyday People performs at 3 p.m.

The finals for the Peach Queen scholarship pageant begin at 7 p.m.

This year, almost a dozen girls from Niagara County have entered the competition vying for the Peach Queen crown and a \$4,000 scholarship awarded by the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston. WGRZ-TV news anchor Maryalice Demler will serve as hostess for the Peach Queen finals.



Pete Gallivan, Maryalice Demler and Tom Darro.

## Broadcast media personalities participating in 65th annual Niagara County Peach Festival

Text and Photos Provided by Bob Koshinski

Two of WGRZ-TV Channel 2's prominent news anchors will be front and center at the 65th annual Niagara County Peach Festival in Lewiston this weekend, as Maryalice Demler and Pete Gallivan will appear in key events. Plus, WEBR's Tom Darro, a Hall of Fame broadcaster from Niagara Falls, will emcee the opening ceremonies.

Demler will once again serve as hostess for the Peach Queen scholarship pageant finals on Sunday at 8 p.m. The North Tonawanda native and Niagara University graduate has won numerous broadcasting awards, including two Emmy Awards from the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She's also received an Associated Press Award for Best Interview and over a dozen other New York Emmy Award nominations for her reporting work.

Gallivan will be the Peach Festival parade marshal at 11 a.m. Saturday. He is a "Daybreak" co-anchor and also produces a weekly feature called "Unknown Stories of WNY," which highlights local history.

Darro will host the opening ceremonies at 5 p.m. Friday on the main stage at Academy Park. He is well-known for his 60-plus years on radio in Niagara Falls and surrounding area. He took over as host of then WJLL's morning show and "Viewpoint," the station's call-in program, in 1969. Darro also spent time with the Niagara Falls Tourist and Convention Bureau, promoting Niagara Falls as a tourist destination on radio stations throughout the Northeast. He returned to WJLL in 2006, again hosting "Viewpoint." The program continues today on WEBR.

The 2023 Niagara County Peach Festival is presented by Modern Disposal and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston, WGRZ-TV, "97 Rock," Tim Hortons CRB, Niagara County and the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute.

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