

# 2021 NORTHWEST JAZZ FESTIVAL CANCELED; WILL RESUME IN 2022

The board of directors of the Northwest Jazz Festival of Historic Lewiston, NY (Lewiston Jazz Festival Inc.) announced Thursday the popular festival has been canceled for 2021. Planning is underway for the 2022 event, slated for Aug. 26-27.

Organizers said the decision to cancel was made upon consideration of funding, logistics, contracts, operations and New York state guidelines/restrictions.

The annual event is a free outdoor concert featuring more than 150 musicians over the two-day festival with tens of thousands of attendees within a two-block section of Center Street in the Village of Lewiston.

Over \$150,000 is raised to host the festival each year through sponsorship, vendor fees and an annual fundraising event. While several large sponsors were on board for this year, organizers said the magnitude of raising the

funds for the free event is not attainable at this time.

A subcommittee of the volunteer board is focused on planning a fundraising event in August featuring local jazz musicians at Village of Lewiston restaurants and bars.

Boards of Director Chairwoman Carol Calato said, "Good news! The board is working on hosting a reimagined jazz event this August as a fundraiser for the 2022 event. As hopeful as we have been that we would be able to bring back the Northwest Jazz Festival as we know it in 2021, the board has decided there are still too many unknowns and too little time to make the same upscale festival possible this year. That said, plans are in the works for an exciting weekend offering jazz lovers a taste of what will come in 2022 ... when we will be back in full force."

Music Director Tony Zambito,



(Jazz Festival file photo)

who coordinates the musicians and takes care of the contracts for the national headliner performances, said, "While it is disappointing to cancel for 2021, it is the right thing to do. Our No. 1 concern is for the safety of the audience. We still have a high degree of uncertainty that makes advanced planning extremely difficult. The festival has made tremendous progress towards fulfilling the promise of establishing itself as a world-class jazz festival. As well as maintaining being one of the largest free jazz

festivals in the region. Without the necessary resources and the constraints upon us due to the pandemic, we will not be able to fulfill this promise. We'll be looking at a fundraising event for the planned weekend involving the community with our eyes towards returning in a big way in 2022."

The board of directors will continue to work with Northwest Bank, the naming sponsor of the event, and sponsors to bring back the internationally known festival next year.

Upcoming events and fundrais-

ing opportunities are currently being planned for Aug. 27-28, 2021, and will be listed online at [www.LewistonJazz.com](http://www.LewistonJazz.com).

The Northwest Jazz Festival, Lewiston, NY is a 501(c)(3) organization under the name of Lewiston Jazz Festival Inc. The Village of Lewiston is host to the region's most popular two-day free music jazz festival, which boasts non-stop performances on five stages and an abundance of culinary delights paired with Niagara Region wineries.

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## Schoellkopf Health Center begins in-person visitation

It's been a year in the making, but Ken Kenney was finally reunited with his wife, Nancy, on Thursday when Schoellkopf Health Center resumed in-person visitation at the facility.

While the happy couple of 35 years saw each other last year when Schoellkopf hosted window visits, this is the first time since March 2020 that they have sat together in the same room, and the joy on their faces was undeniable.

With in-person visitation resumed, visitors must enter through Schoellkopf and are limited to 30 minutes with up to two visitors per resident. In addition, while visits are allowed to take place in resident rooms, social distancing of at least 6 feet is required, face masks must be worn, and proper hand hygiene must be followed.

Visitors will also be asked to sign-in, get a temperature reading, and review a fact sheet regarding visitation guidelines.

Scheduled visitation hours will vary and are subject to change. For more information, call 278-4591.

As per New York state guidance, any new admission is prohibited from in-person visits for the first 14 days of their stay as they are considered to be in a quarantine period.



## Niagara County to host agribusiness outreach forum

The Niagara County Center for Economic Development announced it will again host its annual agribusiness outreach forum, although this year's event will be done virtually. The event will be held over two days, March 23 and 25, from 9-11 a.m. each day.

Last year's forum was canceled due to COVID-19.

"According to the most recent census data, there are 690 farms in Niagara County covering 140,259 acres, and we rank 18th in New York state with \$118.6 million in market value of agricultural products sold," said Legislator Irene Myers, who grew up working on farms in Ransomville. "Yet,

not many people appreciate the significant role that agriculture plays in Niagara County's economy, which is why the outreach forum was designed to help support our farmers and related businesses."

Niagara County Commissioner for Economic Development Michael Casale said, "We are excited to bring this program back in 2021, knowing how popular it was with all those involved in agribusiness. We will cover a lot of ground over two days with some very tremendous speakers. There is no cost to participate, but people must preregister."

Casale said that, over the course of the two-day event, top-

ics covered will include crop diversification, agritourism, succession planning and farm labor issues. In addition, participants will also learn about the Food Safety Modernization Act; Cornell Cooperative Extension's regional agricultural teams; CCE of Niagara's beginning farmer training program; low-cost power programs; and services offered by the NCCC Small Business Development Center, the Niagara County Farm Bureau and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets among others.

Participants can register for the event at <https://www.niagaracountybusiness.com/featured-events>.