

Lewiston Art Festival: Annual event is Aug. 10-11 on Center Street

Continued from Page 1

Since 1968, the Art Festival has nurtured Lewiston's identity throughout the region as a home to artists and art-lovers alike, and showcases our community to tens of thousands of visitors. "The Lewiston Art Festival is an extremely important part of the Lewiston community and presents a weekend that people look forward to every year," Town of Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick said. "One of the more frequent questions I get from people outside our immediate area is, 'When is the Lewiston Art Festival?' Absolutely one of my favorite events of the year."

The pedestrian-friendly layout will close Center Street to cars from Fourth to Eighth streets, and fill the village roadway with art and music.

The Grant Asklar Quartet will be performing at South Seventh Street, near Orange Cat Coffee Co., from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on both Saturday and Sun-

day. On Saturday, from 1-3 p.m., the Barroom Buzards will stroll the festival, playing their mix of New Orleans and Dixieland jazz, swing and blues. Visiting from Torrington, Connecticut, St. Peter's Drum Corps will treat us to a parade and marching band concert starting at 2 p.m. Sunday.

At 1 p.m. Saturday, make sure you find yourself at Sixth and Center streets when Cirque Kickasse, sponsored by Artpark & Company, serves up amazing acrobatics from their Not-Necessarily-A-Food-Truck truck!

In keeping with our commitment to fostering the development of young artists, Colledge Alley, located in the KeyBank parking lot, will again feature the work of high school and college students. Student artists have the opportunity to gain exhibiting experience without adhering to the more-stringent requirements for professional artists. Don't miss this chance to start collecting



the work of these emerging artists!

This year's Chalk Walk theme is "Cosmic Creations" and we will have 15 teams of all ages, with

prize categories for youth artists, emerging artists, high school, and advanced artist (individuals 18 years or older). We are grateful to our sponsors First Pres-

byterian Church, KeyBank and Mount St. Mary's, whose support makes it possible for this to be a true community event. Be sure to grab a piece of chalk and add your special touch to our "Cosmic Creations" group street mural!

For participating festival artists, Modern Corporation generously sponsors the "Modern Art Awards" given in six categories: painting; mixed media; graphic arts / photography; artistic crafts I: jewelry; artistic crafts II: ceramic, glass, metal; artistic crafts III: wood, leather, fiber. Each category will award first-, second- and third-place prizes. Best in show and best booth will also be awarded.

Honoring the traditions of our Haudenosaunee neighbors, Jordan Smith will open each day of the festival with "The Words Before All Else," a thanksgiving address in his native tongue, at 10 a.m. at the gazebo.

The Trail of Treaties & Treaty Loom Project, sponsored by Artpark and curated by Artpark's Indigenous producer, Michele-Elise Burnett and professor Richard Hamell, is an immersive and en-

The Lewiston Art Festival returns to Center Street. (Images courtesy of the Lewiston Council on the Arts)

gaging audio/visual journey through six significant wampum belts that have shaped the lands you walk on today. As you travel the Trail of Treaties, discover each treaty through the Indigenous lens with interpretive descriptions and narrations by Dr. Joe Stahman of the Tuscarora Nation. We encourage you to listen via QR code and read about each of the six wampum belts.

Don't forget to stamp your commemorative Trail of Treaties passport booklet at each station. Once completed, visit Hamell and the team at the gazebo to have your questions about the treaties answered, discover one of the largest wampum displays

in the U.S., and learn how to make a wampum bead using traditional tools.

New this year, all are invited to participate in weaving the Treaty Commitment and Intentions Loom. Together, we can build a stronger cross-cultural future for the next seven generations.

There's plenty of interactive fun for all ages at the Art Festival this year. Get a henna tattoo (near the clock at North Fifth Street), or have your face painted or a caricature done (corner of Center and South Seventh streets). There will be two free, hands-on Kids Art Zones along the street:

- At ArtZone No. 1, by St. Peter's rectory, the Lewiston Public Library will sponsor activities from noon to 4 p.m. on both days for children of all ages.

front of the Rite Aid plaza. For the safety and comfort of our two- and four-legged friends, we strongly discourage bringing non-service dogs to the festival. If it's too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for their bare paws!

Art Festival sponsors include the Town of Lewiston, Village of Lewiston, Niagara County Legislature, Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, Modern Corporation, Severson Environmental Services, and AMD Environmental Consultants Inc. Chalk Art sponsors include KeyBank, Mount St. Mary's Hospital and First Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to Tin Pan Alley for providing a delicious sit-down breakfast for the artists!

For more information, visit www.artcouncil.org.

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