

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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The Tribune and The Sentinel are teaming up to cover Niagara County as the community continues to reflect on, respond to, and ultimately recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to print newspapers, these publications will be available in their entirety – for free – at [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com).

## More events postponed or canceled due to virus threat ...

### Artpark offers new update on summer concerts & programming

Artpark & Company Executive Director Sonia Clark posted this update to the venue's website on Tuesday.

Dear Artpark Community,  
I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy.

As the summer draws nearer, I am sure you are wondering about the status of Artpark's season and I would like to share some updates with you.

If you are following the reports from public health officials, government and media, you're aware that uncertainty and speculation remains during this unprecedented crisis. The arts and entertainment industry is no different than many other businesses and is evaluating on a daily basis when a return to operations is feasible while prioritizing the health and safety of audiences, artists and personnel.

We remain in regular contact with all artists scheduled to perform this season and await further direction from their representatives on the status of their tours. We can confirm that the following concerts: **The Head and the Heart** (May 27) and **AWOLNATION** with **Andrew McMahon** (May 31) have been cancelled and details have been communicated to ticketholders. If you have tickets to either of these shows and have not yet received an email, please contact us at [artpark@artpark.net](mailto:artpark@artpark.net).

Also, **Dropkick Murphys** &



Artpark & Company is looking to reschedule its Bright Eyes concert.

**Rancid** (May 24), **Bright Eyes** (June 14) and **King Crimson** (July 1) have announced that their tours will be rescheduled and we are actively working with them on new dates. We will share options with ticketholders as soon as details are confirmed.

We will provide updates on other season events as soon as we are able and appreciate your patience.

There are many parts of the music business industry's ecosystem – all the people who had prepared the programs, musicians, technicians, their agents and managers, equipment providers, transportation companies, promoters who contracted

with the artists and worked to make audiences aware of these events; the ticket sellers who provided their services in handling your orders; concessionaires; and the venues that must be staffed and operated and ready to host these events. In such an unprecedented situation where everyone is affected, audiences lose their tickets and bear the emotional disappointment of not getting to see their favorite artists; musicians lose fees; and venues their liquidity spent in preparation toward a future event. We all recognize our part and move forward together. ...

During this time, we are all **SEE ARTPARK**, continued on Page 2

### GardenFest canceled for 2020



The Lewiston Garden Club's GardenFest is the latest event canceled in the River Region.

Chairwoman Judy Talarico said, "Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Lewiston GardenFest presented by Lewiston Garden Club is cancelling its 2020 event scheduled for June 20 and 21. This was not an easy decision but, after careful consideration, our volunteer organizing committee feels forgoing this year's event is in the best interest of the health and safety of our festival attendees and vendors.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Village of Lewiston to celebrate our 15th Lewiston GardenFest in June 2021."

President Sharon Low added, "The Lewiston Garden Club is very sorry that, due to the coronavirus, it has been necessary to cancel their annual perennial sale, which was scheduled for

May 16. If possible, there may be one in the fall."

Other events recently canceled for 2020 include the Village of Lewiston's Spring Fling (the accompanying inclusive playground ribbon-cutting ceremony is postponed), the Taste of Lewiston, the Lewiston Smelt Festival, the Lewiston Memorial Day parade and luncheon, and the Women's Porter Cup Tournament. The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce Gala is postponed.

Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch said, "I'm very hopeful that, once we start seeing the numbers decline, that more things will be able to happen," including the Lewiston Art Festival and Northwest Jazz Festival in August. "I'm very hopeful that we'll still have those festivals. ... The only thing I can do is just sit and wait until the state decides what we can and can't do."

## ... but Hibbard's planning to open May 1



Hibbard's Original Frozen Custard is anticipating opening for the 2020 season next week.

A tweet sent out Tuesday stated, "Listen up Custard Fans! We will be open next Friday, May 1st! Look out world, we're back! We will have shorter hours than normal for a while and the patio won't be available yet (Social distancing folks! Please be courteous!) We'll be here from 12:00PM to 7:00 PM every day." A Facebook post said the same thing.

Currently, New York restaurants are limited to takeout or delivery only under Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "PAUSE" executive order. Lewiston eateries have shifted into that mode, as staffers try to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19.

<< A scene from the 2019 opening at Hibbard's Original Frozen Custard.

Hibbard's is designed for walk-up service, which is essentially the same as takeout or drive-thru. On-site seating will not be allowed.

Undoubtedly, the business will be a popular spot when the red "Open" sign is turned on – as it has been in past years. It's unclear how the custard stand will maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between customers waiting in line for an order. NFP is awaiting word from management.

A second posting on Wednesday stated, in part, "Please remember social distancing! We will be enforcing this so please help us out and be respectful of others. We don't want to get fined, or worse yet, shut down for ... a distancing violation!"

"We will be credit/debit only – NO CASH! ..."

"Our menu will be smaller at first, but we'll have some new tasty treats for you to try!"

"Thanks for your continued support Custard Fans! You guys are the greatest fans anywhere! #custardfans #custardfansarethegreatestfans."

Co-owner Kris Trunzo recently said, "Please note that we will be introducing many new flavors this year, as well as custard sandwiches, which will be a partnership between Hibbard's Custard and The Village Bake Shoppe. We are planning a few surprises for the season, so please follow our Facebook page at 'Hibbard's Original Custard' for further announcements."

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