

Vaccinations available at Peach Fest

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In response to the ongoing concerns over COVID-19 and the delta variant, Kiwanis organizers report they have teamed up with the Niagara County Health Department to ensure a safe environment for visitors throughout the weekend. Health Director Daniel Stapleton announced registered nurses and NCDOH staff would be on site from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday to administer cost-free Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccinations to the public.

"We want to provide the entire range of vaccinations that we can. I have my best staff who will be working here on those two days to make sure residents get what they need to be able to protect themselves and those that they love," Stapleton said. "We're very happy to be collaborating with the Kiwanis Club on this."

Peach Festival Advisory Chairman Jerry Wolfgang said, "We're looking forward to having the County Health Department here on Saturday and Sunday. And we hope a lot of people will come

and get their vaccines. There is no cost whatsoever, so we encourage people to come down and get their vaccines here at Academy Park during the Lewiston Kiwanis Peach Festival."

And plan on enjoying the entire long weekend at this Niagara County favorite. The club reports Peach Festival advanced ride tickets are on sale at locations across Western New York.

What's more, park admission and festival parking are both free, with shuttles to the Artpark upper lots again being provided to visitors by Greyline Tours.

"We encourage people to park at the Artpark upper lot," Kiwanian Gerauld Gismondi said. "If you park at the Artpark upper lot, there are two shuttles that circle and drop people off and pick them up. It runs all four days of the festival, from start to close; you don't have to worry about being stranded. It is free again, thanks to our sponsors and thank you to Artpark."

For more information on the many activities at next weekend's Peach Festival, visit www.lewistonpeachfestival.org.

Artpark to present new public artworks

✓ Art installation 'Murmuration' by SO - IL

✓ Wayfinding mural 'Unity in Diversity' by Muhammad Z Zaman

✓ Plus, relaunch of "Sonic Trails" by Holladay Brothers / SoZo Artists

Artpark & Company will unveil two new public artworks: interactive installations "Murmuration" by SO - IL studio, and mural "Unity in Diversity" by Muhammad Z Zaman. Both pieces will be on display, free and open to the public, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10.

"Murmuration" is designed by the Brooklyn-based architectural firm SO-IL led by internationally acclaimed architects Florian Idenburg and Jing Liu, Ted Baab, Andrew Gibbs and Ray Rui Wu.

Located on the lawn by the lower entrance of the park, the 25-foot high, 100-foot-by-80-foot print "Murmuration" is the largest scale installation at Artpark since "Omega" by Owen Morel in 1980. It consists of a constellation of metal frames suspended from six poles and wrapped in agricultural netting, giving the installation its distinct shape. The sculptural arrangement aims to evoke the form of a bird murmuration - a flock of birds momentarily suspended in midair. The canopy is interspersed with seating perches and other playful elements designed to encourage conversations, observation and awareness around biodiversity, extinction and cohabitation. Visitors are invited to perch alongside the birds in this outdoor mesh canopy.

A sculptural pavilion, in its title and concept, "Murmuration" directly advocates for conservation efforts for birds, reflecting on the loss of billions in recent decades and the terms this loss has for the future environment.

"Murmuration" is a gifted installation from the SO-IL studio and was recently migrated from its original location at the High Museum in Atlanta to its new home at Artpark. The installation of Murmuration at Artpark is funded by Charles E. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation and members of the Artpark & Company board of directors.

The lead architect on Artpark's recently completed master plan, SO - IL (Solid Objectives - Idenburg Liu) is the Brooklyn-based architectural firm founded by



Pictured is a portion of "Unity in Diversity" by Muhammad Z Zaman.

Idenburg and Liu in 2008. With their original voice, Idenburg and Liu help communities connect to their environments through collaboration and participation. SO - IL said meaningful architecture can develop out of the confluence of universal concepts and local specificities, engendering conversations around issues facing society today. For more information, visit <http://so-il.org/>.

"It's really exciting and appropriate to install 'Murmuration' as another step in the transformation of Artpark," Idenburg said. "'Murmuration' is conceived as a gathering space for various forms of life. The notion that Artpark will transform into a year-round venue for art, nature and culture is represented in this installation, which sits beautifully on the banks of the Niagara Gorge."

Artpark's other public artwork this fall is Zaman's "Unity in Diversity," a weaving, colorful pathway using a unique calligraphic style. The carpet-like painting traverses the lower parking lot from the South Fourth Street entrance toward the box office, inviting visitors to walk safely and with a sense of wonder.

Buffalo-based Zaman is the 2021 summer artist-in-residence as part of the "Artpark Works" program funded by the John R. Oishei Foundation and KeyBank in partnership with the First Niagara Foundation. He specializes in urban art and calligraphic art.

His script is deeply inspired by ancient practices while incorporating modern and urban techniques and influences. Zaman weaves a unique narrative that uses elements from each of three languages that have significant personal meaning - English, Bangla and Arabic. Bangla is his first language as a native of Bangladesh. English is the language of his time in the U.S. Arabic is the language of his Islamic religion.

Zaman quotes African American poet Audre Lorde: "It is not our differences that divide us, it is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

Similarly, Artpark said "Unity in Diversity" is "an invitation of hope that humanity will be stronger with mutual connection and inclusiveness. The curiosity this painting elucidates is a nonfamiliar kind of reading. Its built-in, semifamiliarity, combined with multiple layers of joyful colors and patterns, shows the importance of mutual respect, despite the seeming impossibility of communicating or understanding each other."

Zaman said, "I will never forget my experience painting this mural at Artpark. It was the first time for me to paint a path and not a wall and I have to say I had a wonderful time. I received some feedback from the people who were walking in the park, and this is something really special to me. SEE ARTPARK, continued on Page 19

42nd Annual Antique & Classic Boat & Car Show
Sat., Sept. 11, 2021 • 9:45am-4pm
Buffalo Launch Club, Grand Island

Children's Activities
11am - 3pm

Parking FEE \$10⁰⁰

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021
 9:45 am - Opening Ceremony and 9/11 Tribute
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Show open to public
 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Seminar Series - Buffalo Launch Club
 *History of Gar Wood Boats - Turcotte Brothers
 *Erie Canal History
 *Packet Boat - Buffalo Maritime Center
 1:00 pm - Junior Judging

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