

# 52nd annual Grape JAMboree

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# Grape JAMboree celebrates 52 years of purple fun

BY MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — Purple cows, purple clothes, purple hair and purple parade floats — all of Geneva turns purple for the annual Grape JAMboree, and that's just how JAMboree President Dave Johnson likes it.

"The 52nd annual Geneva Grape JAMboree will be another amazing year of community as we celebrate all things grape as only Geneva can," he said.

The festival of grapes begins 10 a.m. Saturday with the traditional welcome by Jamboree President Dave Johnson and a Blessing of the Festival by Pastor Harry Pishcura of the New Life Assembly of God.

Chief Meteorologist Jeff Tanchak from Cleveland Channel 19, WOIO will serve as the festival spokesperson again this year.

For the 52nd year, the JAMboree Slovenian Dancers will perform at

10:15 a.m. in authentic costume to kick off the weekend entertainment with traditional dances from the "Old Country."

Another Grape JAMboree tradition, the local square dancing group Shawnee Squares will perform at 11 a.m.

Visitors can show their dedication to the color purple at the popular grape stomping competition on the main stage. Children 12 and younger are invited to this stomp-off at noon.

The grape stomping continues for adults at 12:30 p.m. Volunteers will clean up the stage in time for the JAMboree parade at 1:30 p.m.

"The JAMboree parades are not just a Geneva tradition, not just an Ashtabula County tradition, but they are also an Ohio tradition," Johnson said.

This year the JAMboree parades are led by Geneva Recreation Director Myke Anderson, who is the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce

Citizen of the Year, Johnson said.

Miss Grapette 2014 Paige Mottley and her court will be honored at 3:10 p.m. and the new Miss Grapettes will take their place as the reigning Grape JAMboree festival queens.

Join the pie eating contest at 5 p.m. and stuff your face with grape pie.

"Whether you're watching the contest or shoving your face in a pie, there's nothing more fun than the pie eating contest," Johnson said.

The Phillip Fox Band takes the stage to play southern rock at 5:30 p.m., and magician Jason Alan will perform his slight of hand at 7:15 p.m. Premiere Eagles tribute band Hotel California will perform at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday events begin at noon and kick off with the Baby Contest. Newborns through 23 months are welcome to show off their cuteness in their "grapey-ist"



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costume to compete for the title of Jr. Baby Grapette. Sign-up begins at 11:30 a.m. behind the Main Stage.

More grape stomping begins at 12:45 p.m. for those under age 18. Sign-up begins at 12:15 p.m. behind the Main Stage.

Adult grape stompers can show off their purple toes at 1:15 p.m., with sign ups at 12:45 p.m. behind the main stage.

The Grape JAMboree Parade begins at 2 p.m. with floats, bands and visiting festival queens from across Ohio.

Put the pedal to the metal at 4:30 p.m. with the Buckeye State National Pedal Pullers Tractor Pull for boys and girls ages 3 to 11 years old. All equipment is pro-

vided. Sign ups begin at 3:30 p.m. on East Main Street.

The Geneva GI's will represent Geneva High School with a show choir performance at 4:45 p.m.

The Crossroads Community Church Praise Band will play a mix of positive songs and Christian worship songs at 5:15 p.m.

The band Simba will play country music at 6:15 p.m.

Rick K and the All-nighters take the stage to play rock's greatest hits at 7:45 p.m.

"We always work hard to book the hottest bands of the year," Johnson said. "Our concerts are always popular and the music is always amazing."



The Geneva Grape JAMboree features two parades: one on Saturday and one on Sunday.

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# Myke Anderson 2015 Grape JAMBoree Parade Marshal



MARGIE NETZEL | STAR BEACON

Geneva Area Chamber Of Commerce Citizen of the Year Myke Anderson will also serve as the honorary Parade Marshal of the 52nd annual Geneva Grape JAMBoree.

## BY MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA - Mychaelane "Myke" Anderson has given her career, and a lot of her spare time, to Geneva — directing events, coordinating leagues and making her mark on the community she calls home.

Anderson, Geneva recreation director, was the 2014 Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and honorary parade marshal at the Geneva Grape JAMBoree.

An employee of the city for 18 years, Anderson is the daughter of Robert and Patricia Park and mother of Lake and Tyler Anderson.

A Geneva High School graduate, Anderson directs, coordinates or participates in the April craft show, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the city after school program, Bitty Basketball, the bridal fashion show, Christmas with Santa, Concerts at the Pavilion, Ghoulfest, and is a chairperson for the Geneva Winterfest.

Anderson said she

was honored to be the Citizen of the Year.

"I would like to thank all those who thought I was worthy of this honor," she said. "It is amazing to be in such an outstanding group of people before me. Never in my wildest

dreams did I think I would be honored with this award."

Anderson said her work with the recreation department is a huge part of her life.

"Both of my children grew up at the rec center with me," she said.

"From an early age, I had them helping me with stuff, from stuffing bags for the back to school distribution to bringing friends and scaring people in our haunted gym during Ghoulfest. They are both really proud."



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# Run for Grapes Sunday



MARGIE NETZEL | STAR BEACON

The annual run for the grapes, sponsored by the Geneva Rotary Club, will be Sunday.

## BY MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — It's a run for the grapes as runners from across the region take to the streets of Geneva on Sunday.

The 35th annual Run for the Grapes 5K race, sponsored by the Geneva Rotary, is a fundraiser to help the club fund youth programs including the Break-

fast of Champions and the Youth Leadership Camp, run director Jeff Piotrowski said.

Grape JAMBoree President Dave Johnson said the Run for Grapes shows how a community event like the JAMBoree can grow outside of even itself to inspire events of support.

Online registration is suggested and is available at [www.greater-](http://www.greater-clevelandxc.com)

[clevelandxc.com](http://clevelandxc.com).

The Run for the Grapes will begin at 9 a.m. Sunday at UH Geneva Medical Center on West Main Street. Registration for runners opens at 7:30 a.m.

Piotrowski said runners should arrive dressed to run.

"There are no showers or dressing rooms available," he said.

Registration is \$15, and the first 250 registered runners will receive a T-shirt.

"This 5K race takes runners through the streets of Geneva during the annual Grape JAMBoree celebration each year," Piotrowski

said.

Piotrowski said the course is clearly marked with traffic control and police escort. The race ends where it began, back at the hospital.

Piotrowski said the event will include door prizes, refreshments and juice, fruit and snacks for the runners is provided by the Geneva Giant Eagle and McDonald's.

For more information on the Run for the Grapes, call Piotrowski at (440) 415-1091. Information on the race is also available at [www.northeastrunningclub.com](http://www.northeastrunningclub.com) or email [jeffcpa01@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcpa01@gmail.com).

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## Grape artists show off work at JAMboree

**BY MARGIE NETZEL**  
For the Star Beacon

GENEVA - Artists of all ages will show off their talent at the annual Geneva Grape JAMboree Art Show.

This long-running event features local artists in all mediums and will take place at the Geneva Recreation Center throughout JAMboree weekend, art show co-chairperson Diane L. Trawatha-Acerra said.

Trawatha-Acerra said the show will highlight everything from photos, paintings, pencil or chalk drawings, as well as crayon drawings.

"Also ceramics, jewelry, baskets created out of pine needles or designs made out of plaster of Paris - really anything will be at the show," she said.

The diverse range of talents, interests, and expression is what

Trawatha-Acerra said keeps people coming back to the show year after year.

Entries are judged in six categories: oils and acrylics, watercolors; graphics, ink, pencil or pastel; sculpture, jewelry or three-dimensional art; photography - digital or film - in color; and photography - digital or film - in black and white.

"The neat thing about an art show is that 'art is in the eye of the beholder,'" Trawatha-Acerra said. "A piece may be beautiful to one person and the next person may not agree. This is the reason we have three judges. We find judges from all walks of life to keep the judging well-rounded."

Trawatha-Acerra said the show brings as many as 220 artists every year, with prizes for exceptional entries.

"We have awards sponsored by some of our local businesses that support the arts," she said. "But our personal favorite award is the People's Choice Award. During the day Saturday, we hand out ballots to anyone who wants to vote on their favorite entry in the show. Last year, we had 387 ballots."

Trawatha-Acerra said she takes special joy in seeing children's artwork in the show.

"Being chairpersons for the last three years, we have also enjoyed seeing some of the same youth and children enter every year. Watching the growth in the art talent, as they age, is truly delightful," she said.

The art show will be open to the public 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.



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Young Miss Grapette competitors were: Brooke Reed, Isabella Chongris, Teagan Gilbert, Charlise LaRiche, Faith York and Kiara Cuccaro.



PHOTOS BY MARGIE NETZEL | STAR BEACON

The 2015 Miss Grapette contestants were (from left): Emily Fox, Elizabeth Nemeth, Carley Mottley, Jamie Bradbury, Heather Hill and Summer Cummins. Mottley won.



Little Miss Grapette contestants include: Grace Pennington, Rylee Rogers, Cailyn King, and Sarah Cybulski. Not pictured: Brooke Marous.



The Junior Miss Grapette contestants are: Madeline Kosek, Sara Carano, Nia Gribbons, Dakotah Traven, and Brooke Mottley.

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## Miss Grapette celebrates 52 years of beauty, scholarships

BY MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — Year after year, the Miss Grapette pageant crowns the most accomplished young women in the Geneva area, turning beauty queens into travel ambassadors for the Grape JAMBoree.

"The Miss Grapette Pageant is a tradition in Geneva, but it is always important to remember that it is a scholarship program," pageant director Chrissy Jeppe said.

"The girls may start out as beauty queens, but they quickly become representatives of the JAMBoree and of Geneva."

The pageant took place Sept. 19 at Geneva High School.

Summer Cummins, 16, of Madison said she loves helping local communities and believes in everything Miss Grapette represents.

"The Grapettes always look like they're having so much fun," she said.

Elizabeth Nemeth, 14,

of Madison said she got ready for the pageant by practicing and learning all she can about the history and functions of the Grape JAMBoree.

Heather Hill, 17, of Geneva participated in the pageant three times.

"I know being a Grapette will be an amazing experience," she said. "I look up to (2014 Miss Grapette) Paige Mottley. I just think she's amazing with all the work she does for the community and how she really believes in the JAMBoree and Geneva and being a Grapette."

Mottley said she hopes each girl left the pageant with a positive story to tell.

"Being a Grapette has changed my life in so many ways," she said. "It has helped me in every part of my life. Five years ago I was so shy and I was terrified of public speaking. Being Miss Grapette gave me the confidence to speak in public and to walk across every stage knowing I can handle anything."



MARGIE NETZEL | STAR BEACON

The 2014 Miss Grapette court spent the year traveling and fundraising for local charities. The court includes Miss Grapette Paige Mottley, her first attendant Carley Mottley, and second attendant Zoe Ebersole. Junior Miss Grapette was Carianna Downie with first attendant Brooke Mottley and second attendant Nia Gribbons. Young Miss Grapette was Gracie Powell with first attendant Teagan Gilbert and second attendant Payton Malovrh, and Little Miss Grapette Addison Cordova and her first attendant Cailyn King and second attendant Faith York.

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# Miss Grapette says goodbye with legacy of service

BY MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA - It has been a whirlwind year for Miss Grapette Paige Mottley.

Mottley, along with her sisters Carly and Brooke, served on the 2015 Miss Grapette court, giving her reign a legacy of community service as well as ambassadorship for the Geneva Grape JAMBoree.

"Miss Grapette and her court are more than the beautiful dresses, sashes and crowns that everyone sees. The Miss Grapette court is a sisterhood of 12 young ladies of all ages who not only represent the community, but also

donate their time being involved in it," Mottley said.

Mottley calls her year as Miss Grapette "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"This year has given me the opportunity to greatly impact the people of my community," she said.

In 2015, the court donated almost 1,900 pounds of food to the Geneva Food Pantry, donated blankets to the residents of a local nursing facility, participated in the prom for the developmentally disabled and hosted community fundraisers for various local charities.

The girls also traveled

to many Ohio festivals and fairs.

"I have been to some amazing places, met some wonderfully kind-hearted people and done some things I never thought were possible," she said.

Mottley and her court traveled to the 2015 Miss America Pageant in New Jersey in September to watch the new Miss America perform and be crowned.

But the experiences Mottley holds dearest are those she shared with her "Grapette sisters."

"I have never had such enjoyable memories in my entire life," she said. "The girls of the 2014

court are an inspiring group of ladies who will forever be my Grapette sisters."

Mottley said she is inspired and motivated by pageant director Chrissy Jeppe, and said she will continue to serve on the Grape JAMBoree committee.

"Even though it is going to be so difficult to let go this year, my journey with the Miss Grapettes doesn't stop here," she said. "I have joined the festival committee and plan to be involved with not only the festival, but the pageant and the Miss Grapette court for many years to come."



Paige Mottley

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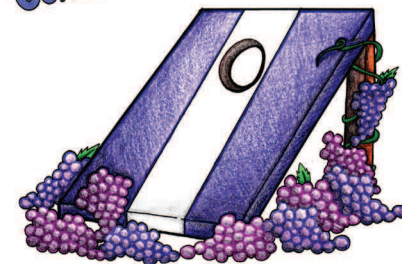
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52<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Geneva Grape Jamboree  
Cornhole Tournament



T-shirts designed by Geneva Middle School students Janessa Baker (left) and Zoe Wiley (center), and Geneva High School student Olivia Giffin (right) will be on sale at the JAMBoree.

## Wearing a winner: Annual T-shirt design contest

BY MARGIE NETZEL  
For the Star Beacon

GENEVA – More than 60 designs were submitted for the annual JAMBoree T-shirt design contest, and only three designs could win. JAMBoree president Dave Johnson narrowed it down by half, but that still left 30 designs and three categories.

“The entries were just phenomenal,” he said. “It was difficult

to choose, and as a committee, we really labor over the choice. The officers narrowed it down to half and then just kept narrowing it down and down until we came up with the winners for the year.”

Geneva Middle School student Janessa Baker won for her overall JAMBoree shirt design. Second place goes to Geneva Middle School student Zoe Wiley for her grape stomping purple cow design, and

Geneva High School student Olivia Giffin took first place for her design for the annual JAMBoree cornhole tournament.

Johnson said JAMBoree chairperson Natalie Goodlin came up with the idea of a kids T-shirt design contest two years ago.

“We just thought this was a great way to involve the kids,” he said.

Each winner will receive a T-shirt with their design, a cash

prize and a ceramic tile with their name.

The T-shirts are

available for sale at the JAMBoree souvenir stand in the middle of

the square, along with tote bags, mugs and other memorabilia.

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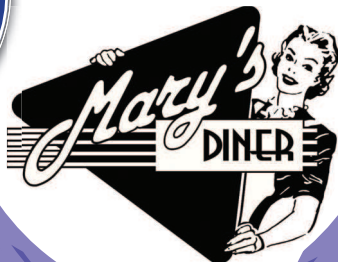
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## Geneva Grape JAMboree looking for volunteers

**BY MARGIE NETZEL**

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA - Planning the Grape JAMboree takes a whole year, festival president Dave Johnson said, and volunteers are needed year-round to make each JAMboree a success.

"Planning a JAMboree is a year-long event," Johnson said. "It takes a lot of people to make everything possible."

Johnson and the rest of the JAMboree committee are looking for a few good, grape-loving friends to tackle everything from strategic planning and organization to litter pickup during the annual fest.

"We have people who come to us during the JAMboree and they

ask how they can get involved," he said. "But when it comes down to planning, we still need volunteers. We are constantly looking for people to help out."

The committee of about 25 active members meets on the second Thursday of each month in the upstairs room in the Geneva Recreation Center. The festival takes place the last full weekend in September.

"We are constantly looking to add events and enhance the events we have for the JAMboree," Johnson said. "There are so many ways to help out, whether you want to help plan for the whole year or pitch in on the days of the festival."

The group has become

more than just a committee over the years, he said.

"This is a fun group," Johnson said. "We have become almost like a family, in a way."

For more information on volunteer opportunities, email [info@grapejamboree.com](mailto:info@grapejamboree.com). To participate in the Miss Grapette Pageant, email [missgrapette@grapejamboree.com](mailto:missgrapette@grapejamboree.com). To advertise in the annual brochure or to sponsor an event, email [brochure@grapejamboree.com](mailto:brochure@grapejamboree.com)

"We welcome anyone who is willing to help," Johnson said. "We have a job for everyone. Even if you can only donate a few hours of your time, we can find a place for you in this grape family."



# Turn up the music: Bands, magician to visit JAMboree

**BY MARGIE NETZEL**  
For the Star Beacon

GENEVA – The 52nd annual Geneva Grape JAMboree will feature musical artists and entertainment for everyone, festival president Dave Johnson said.

The JAMboree music scene kicks off with The Phillip Fox Band 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Described as “Country-fried Rock’n Roll,” this band takes a classic approach to music.

“Rock’n Roll is alive in this age where music is free, fans are digital and bands are measured in buzz,” Johnson

said. “The Phillip Fox Band is genuine Rock’n Roll.”

Jason Alan Magic takes the stage at 7:15 p.m. Saturday.

“He went from magic being a hobby to a profession,” Johnson said. “In 2007, he was awarded the Magicians Alliance of Eastern States Close-up Magic, Comedy and Stage Magician of the Year award.”

The magic of The Eagles will be recreated with the tribute band “Hotel California” at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Johnson said.

“Saturday’s main



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**The premiere Eagles tribute band Hotel California will play at the 52nd annual Geneva Grape JAMboree at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.**

entertainment is the nation’s best Eagles tribute band,” he said. “This band prides itself on creating the illusion that you are listening to the actual Eagles.”

The band has shared the stage with the Doobie Brothers,

Lynard Skynard, Styx, REO Speedwagon and others.

The musical fun continues on Sunday with the Worship Band from Crossroads Community Church. This multi-generational group of musicians from Crossroads

Community Church in Madison will play an eclectic mix of modern day, positive alternative and Christian worship songs on the main stage at 5:15 p.m. Sunday.

“This talented group also plays every Sunday at the church at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.,” Johnson said.

The Simba Jordan Band takes the stage 6:15 p.m. Sunday to play music with influences from country artists like Randy Travis, Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson and Tim McGraw.

“But it’s interesting because they are also

influenced by artists like Prince and Michael Jackson,” Johnson said. “Their bring a high energy performance to every stage.”

Called “America’s most exciting show band,” Rick K. and the Allnighters is a high-speed trip through rock’s greatest hits at 7:45 p.m. Sunday.

“They will take everyone on a trip through the 50’s, they get groovy with the 60’s, and hustles into Disco from the 70’s,” Johnson said. “They play the classic top 40 songs, pop rock of the 80’s and 90’s and more.”

# Lakeview



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# Wine tasting, cornhole, car show among events

**BY MARGIE NETZEL**

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — There are plenty of activities throughout Geneva to keep everyone busy and happy this weekend, Grape JAMboree President Dave Johnson said.

“From the car show to the little peddler’s competition to the craft show, there is always something going on at the JAMboree,” he said.

The ninth annual Auto Showcase on Saturday at Eagle and West Main streets, includes parking for antique, classic and modified vehicles of all kinds. Dash

plaques will be given to the first 100 entries in the show. The show opens at 10 a.m. Parking is \$5 and benefits the Geneva Area Little Leagues.

For more information, contact Bob Hegfield at 576-2265 email carshow@grapjamboree.com.

Rides and midway entertainment will be available in the Depot Street parking lot behind Griffith’s Furniture. Credit cards will be accepted.

There will be a wine tasting extravaganza at the Geneva Community Center on Saturday. The

event, which will include a complimentary wine glass while supplies last, will include samples from Deer’s Leap Winery, Emerine Estates Winery, Hundley Cellars, Ferrante Winery and Ristorante, Bene Vino Urban Winery, Old Firehouse Winery, Lakehouse Winery, The Winery at Spring Hill and Virant Family Winery.

The event, at 2 W. Main St., will be 1-8 p.m. Saturday only and is \$15 per person and includes seven tasting tickets and complimentary wine glass. Additional tickets can

be purchased for \$1 each.

The Geneva Grape JAMboree Corn Hole Tournament, a double elimination, bracket-style tournament, is the best of three with play to 21 points and a seven-point mercy rule in effect. The event begins at 10 a.m. Sunday in the grassy lot at Main Street and Eagle Street. Rain or shine, there is an alternate indoor venue in case of rain. The action pauses with a break for the parade and then will resume at 3:30 p.m.

Teams must have two players. The tournament is limited to 64

teams and the first 64 paid entries get to play. Any member younger than 18 years old must have a parent or guardian as his or her partner. The tournament will be played in accordance with the American Cornhole Association rules. Entry is \$20 per team and includes two T-shirts.

For more information or to register early, contact the Geneva Spinal Health at 466-0860 or email cornhole@genevajamboree.com. Entry forms are available at [www.grapejamboree.com/cornhole-tournament.html](http://www.grapejamboree.com/cornhole-tournament.html).

Supporters of local

artists can browse the entries in the Artists’ JAMboree from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Geneva Recreation Center.

Diane Trawatha-Acerera said the Artists’ JAMboree is a great place to see and appreciate local art.

The contest is open to children and adults.

Get your pedals running for the Buckeye State National Pedal Pullers Tractor Pull for boys and girls ages 3 to 11 years old. All equipment is provided and sign ups begin at 3:30 p.m. on East Main Street.



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Slovenian dancers are among the many events and activities during JAMboree weekend.



## GRAPE JAMBOREE SCHEDULE

### Saturday

**10 A.M.:** Welcome by Jamboree President Dave Johnson Blessing of the Festival by Pastor Harry Pishcura, New Life Assembly of God

**10:10 A.M.:** Introduction of Grape Jamboree Spokesperson, Jeff Tanchak, chief meteorologist from Cleveland Channel 19, WOIO

**10:15 A.M.:** Jamboree Slovenian Dancers

**11 A.M.:** Shawnee Squares dancing group performing a variety of square dances

**NOON:** Youngster Grape Stomping. Five contestants under the age of 12. Sign-up begins at 11:30

a.m. behind the Main Stage.

**12:30 P.M.:** Grape Stomping. Five contestants will be chosen to compete.

**1:30 P.M.:** Jamboree Parade

**3 P.M.:** Welcome and plaque presentations: Honorary Parade Marshal Myke Anderson and the T-shirt contest winners

**3:10 P.M.:** Introduction of this year's Miss Grapette and her Court.

**3:20 P.M.:** Parade Awards

**3:30 P.M.:** Baby Contest: 2 to 3 year olds

**5 P.M.:** Pie Eating Contest. Five contestants will be



chosen to participate in eating grape pies. Sign-up begins at 4:30 p.m.

behind the main stage.

**5:30 P.M.:** The Phillip Fox

Band

**7:15 P.M.:** Magician Jason Alan

**8:30 P.M.:** Hotel California

Sunday

**NOON:** Baby Contest: Newborns thru 23 months. Sign-up begins at 11:30 a.m. behind the Main Stage.

**12:45 P.M.:** Grape Stomping. Five contestants under the age of 18 will be chosen to participate. Sign-up begins at 12:15 p.m. behind the main stage.

**1:15 P.M.:** Adult Grape Stomping. Open to adults 18 - 99 years old. Sign-up begins at 12:45 p.m.

**2 P.M.:** Jamboree Parade

**3:30 P.M.:** Parade Awards

**3:40 P.M.** Welcome and introduction of festival queens from across Ohio

**4:30 P.M.:** Buckeye State National Pedal Pullers Tractor Pull for boys and girls ages 3 to 11 years old. Sign ups begin at 3:30 p.m. on East Main Street.

**4:45 P.M.:** The Geneva GI show choir performance

**5:15 P.M.:** The Crossroads Community Church Praise Band

**6:15 P.M.:** Simba

**7:45 P.M.:** Rick K and The Allnighters

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