

# GENEVA GRAPE JAMBOREE

THE  
GRUBER  
FAMILY

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ALL  
REVVED  
UP

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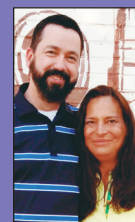


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OF  
EVENTS

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A 2019 STAR BEACON  
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

# Welcome to the 56th Geneva Grape Jamboree

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER  
bhaytcher@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — This year marks the 56th Grape Jamboree and preparations are well under way for the event.

The two-day festival has quite a bit going on and organizers have been working on the project for some time, the President of the Grape Jamboree Committee Dave Johnson said.

"Everything's coming along," he said.

This year marks a number of firsts for the half century old festival including a wedding on the main stage.

There will also be a winery at the event on Saturday on Sunday along with a living statue and the traditional grape stomping and pie eating contests, according to the event's schedule.

"We answer questions year-round," Sue Ellen Foote, executive director of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, said. There is a constant level

## Parade marshal Beth Smith *'thrilled with the honor'*

BY MARK TODD  
For The Star Beacon

GENEVA — The affection Beth Smith feels for Geneva has earned her a coveted seat for the city's Grape Jamboree parade on Saturday and Sunday.

Smith will serve as parade marshal for both days of the massive procession. She is thrilled with the honor.

"I'm very excited," said the lifelong Geneva resident. "I've only missed seeing the parade twice in my entire life. I never

SEE **MARSHALL**, PAGE 14

of interest in the Jamboree, she said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Beth Smith (then Cheney) displays the Geneva Citizen of the Year award she received from the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce in December. Smith will serve as marshal of the upcoming Grape Jamboree parade.**

There will be six musical groups at this year's event as

well as a magician.

Entry into the event is free, as is the entertainment on the main stage.

The headlining musical number, Adam Calvert, has previously performed at the Jamboree, according to the event's schedule.

The Grape Jamboree is known for its pie eating contest, grape stomping, grape ice cream, and various kinds of grape juice. All of those grape treats require grapes and the Jamboree goes through crates and crates. "It's got to be hundreds of pounds," Johnson said.

"You have gallons of fresh grape juice sold and glasses of it. You have various sized boxes of fresh grapes that are purchased," he added.

This year's parade is shaping up to be significant and the committee received applications to be a part of the parade as early as June, Johnson said.

SEE **WELCOME**, PAGE 14

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# The Gruber family at the root of the Geneva Grape Jamboree

BY SHELLEY TERRY  
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GENEVA — The Grape Jamboree is always huge, thanks to about 1,500 acres of vineyards in the Geneva area.

The local grapes, especially the Concord, will be featured at the 56th annual Geneva Grape Jamboree held downtown every year on the last full weekend of September.

The late Raymond Gruber and his brother, the late Joseph Gruber, who were grape farmers in Harpersfield Township for more than 50 years, founded the Geneva Grape Jamboree

in 1963.

They wanted a festival to celebrate the grape harvest, said Raymond Gruber's wife, Fina, now deceased, in a Star Beacon interview in 2011.

The first Grape Jamboree hosted about 5,000 visitors, but since that time, the festival has grown to be one of the largest outdoor festivals in Ohio.

The Gruber family's grape farm is a legacy that goes back to Franz and Louise Gruber, Slovenian immigrants who in 1920 started the 24-acre vineyard off Route 534 South.

The vineyard has sold Concord grapes to

Welch's for juices and grape products for 96 years now. They also sell white Niagara grapes to local wineries.

The Gruber's and many other local vineyard owners' success

**The first Grape Jamboree hosted about 5,000 visitors, but since that time, the festival has grown to be one of the largest outdoor festivals in Ohio.**

can be traced to the region's ideal growing conditions, which exist only in a narrow band from the Lake Erie shore to 10 miles inland.

In the spring, the frozen waters of Lake

Erie keep the air in the region colder later into the year.

This prevents the vines from budding out early only to be damaged by a late spring frost.

In the fall, the warm waters of Lake Erie help prevent early fall frosts which may damage the grape crop before it can be harvested.

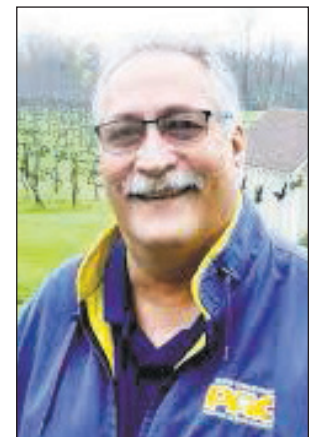
Today, many of the region's 30 wineries grow their own grapes

— native varieties like Concord, Catawba and Niagara, as well as European types like Vidal Blanc and even Malbec.

In late September, when crews are harvesting the grapes, a wonderful smell lingers in the air.

That's when thousands of people flock to Geneva for the Jamboree's grapes, freshly-squeezed grape juice, grape pies, grape ice-cream, wine and various other grape products.

Two parades, an art show, craft show, wine tasting, car show and exhibits make the Jamboree a jam-packed weekend for the entire family.



STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

**Ray Gruber Jr., son of the late Raymond and Fina Gruber, still farms his family's vineyards in Harpersfield Township. Gruber's parents, and his uncle, the late Joseph Gruber, founded the Geneva Grape Jamboree in 1963.**

## ROADS CLOSED FOR THE EVENT

Routes 20 and 534 will be closed in for the Grape Jamboree.

Route 534 will be closed from Depot Street to Park Street, and Route 20 will be closed from Eagle Street to Forest Street.

Route 20 will be closed along the parade route on both Saturday and Sunday.

The event draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to Geneva every year, and finding parking for that many cars can be difficult.

There will be some parking available at Memorial Field, city manager Doug Starkey said. "It's always a challenge with parking," Starkey said.

Street parking is available around the city, and private property owners sometimes set up parking lots on their property, Starkey said.

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- Sharon James Cellars
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## Winery new to grape festival this year

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER  
bhaytcher@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — Wine lovers will have an opportunity to try some wines that they may not have had an opportunity to try before.

"In the past, we did a wine tasting," Garett Germack, the head of the winery committee, said. That tasting has brought in a number of larger wineries in the past, Germack said.

The Jamboree takes place in the harvest season, making it harder for smaller wineries to participate in tastings, due to staffing.

"Some of the smaller wineries couldn't participate because of the time the festival is, and it's during harvest season, and they didn't have the people, so I decided to change it up, and instead of having a wine tasting, just open it up to having a winery

instead," Germack said. "I was able to secure several different kinds of wine from various wineries."

This year, there will be a wide variety of different wines from area wineries including St. Joseph's, Hudley Cellars and Markko Family Winery, Germack said.

There will be music accompanying the event in the form of a DJ on Saturday and an acoustic duet on Sunday.

There will be whites, reds and blushes available at the Community Center, Germack said. "I tried to cover everything," he said.

The event will have a \$10 cover charge, which will get a visitor entry to the Winery for the day, along with a glass of wine in a commemorative glass, Germack said. More wine beyond the first glass will be available for purchase.

Extra commemora-

tive glasses will also be available for purchase, according to the event's website.

The winery will be held at the Geneva Community Center from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday according to the Jamboree's website.

Saint Joseph Vineyard's Riesling will be available at the event, Doreen Pietrzyk, one of the owners of the vineyard, said.

"The Riesling is a big seller for whites. It always is, because you can make it dry or sweet. So ... it can fit anybody's palette, so it's a very likable wine," Pietrzyk said.

The Jamboree is a positive for the community, Pietrzyk said.

"It's just a great event I think for the area. It promotes the Geneva area and promotes the wine area," she said.



# All Revved Up, a Meatloaf tribute band to be Saturday headliner

BY JON WYSOCHANSKI  
jwysochanski@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — There will be a variety of bands at this year's Grape Jamboree, but if you're a fan of rock ballads you'll want to be at the festival Saturday night. This year's headliner, playing at 8:30 p.m., will be Meatloaf tribute band All Revved Up, Grape Jamboree President Dave Johnson said. Meatloaf found fame in the 1970s and 1980s with hits like 'Paradise by the Dashboard Light', and a comeback in the

mid 1990s with the hit song 'I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That).

All Revved Up comes complete with backup singers, high energy, theatrics and costume changes, Johnson said.

The tribute band was booked one year ago and found through a promoter the Grape Jamboree utilizes, Johnson said.

"They are from Long Island and they are supposed to be the premiere Meatloaf

SEE **SATURDAY**, PAGE 14



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Meatloaf tribute band All Revved Up, from Long Island, are the headliners Saturday night at the Grape Jamboree.

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# Festival is a boost to tourism, local economy

BY JON WYSOCHANSKI

jwysochanski@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — Those who come to visit wineries or apple orchards at the end of September might learn much about grapes and locals if they happen upon the Grape Jamboree.

And they do happen upon it this time of the year — according to the Ashtabula County Visitor's Bureau the festival is not just something locals attend.

Stephanie Siegel, executive director of the Visitor's Bureau, said people would be hard-pressed to find a hotel on festival weekend due

to the draw.

"Of course the majority of people attending are locals, but it's such an attraction and unique festival and event," she said.

People tend to come to Ashtabula County in early fall to visit apple orchards during harvests, Siegel said. They also come to the wineries with the hope of seeing fall foliage, she said.

The Grape Jamboree paints the town purple during a time when people are specifically coming for those other reasons, Siegel said. It's an opportunity to present outsiders with

something special about Geneva, she said.

"When else do people have a chance to stomp grapes or taste fresh

**'The Grape Jamboree is also a time to celebrate and inform other that 50 percent of Ohio's grapes are grown in Ashtabula County.'**

**Stephanie Siegel**

Ashtabula County Visitor's Bureau Executive Director

grape juice," Siegel said. "It gives them a really positive experience. When we all travel don't we look for the most unique things to do that you can't do anywhere else? It makes a trip that much more special."

The tourists that

the Visitor's Bureau is interacting with during this time of year are much different than those they encounter in

the summer, Siegel said. They are people looking for "one tank trip" experiences and long weekend drives during temperate weather, she said.

They are people who either learned of the event earlier in the year,

or from others who filled them in after a visit to Ashtabula County, Siegel said.

"We love that the Grape Jamboree happens a little later in the traditional travel season because it helps to extend tourism here," Siegel said. "This and the Covered Bridge Festival give people a reason to come a little later in the year."

Every other year an economic impact on tourism is conducted. A study in 2017 on the economic impact of tourism in the county showed that 4 million people visited Ashtabula County. The study uses

a variety of data from sales and tax figures collected within counties.

"Next year we will do a study that will pull all the numbers from 2019," Siegel said.

The Grape Jamboree, specifically, has thousands of people who attend. Studies show that when people visit an area for a day trip they spend around \$100, and when they stay for a night that number triples, Siegel said.

The Grape Jamboree is also a time to celebrate and inform others that 50 percent of Ohio's grapes are grown in Ashtabula County, Siegel said.

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**SATURDAY**

10 a.m. Welcome by Jamboree President Dave Johnson  
 10:10 a.m. Grape Jamboree Spokesperson Jeff Tanchak, Chief Meteorologist  
 11:15 a.m. Wedding: Mark Gonzalez and Stephanie McDonald on the main stage  
 11:45 a.m. Youngster Grape Stomping  
 12:15 p.m. Grape Stomping  
 1:30 p.m. Jamboree Parade  
 3:00 p.m. Welcome and Plaque Presentation to Honorary Parade Marshal Beth Cheney, Geneva Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year  
 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  
 5:00 p.m. Pie Eating Contest  
 5:30 p.m. Adam Calvert, singer/songwriter performance  
 7:15 p.m. David Anthony, award-winning magician, performance  
 8:30 p.m. All Revved Up, Meatloaf tribute, performance

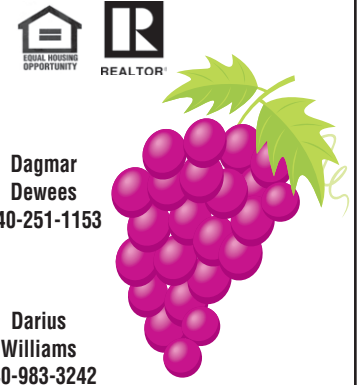
**SUNDAY**

10:30 a.m. Community Church Service  
 Noon Baby outfit contest (newborn-23 months)  
 12:45 p.m. Junior (Under 18) Grape Stomping Competition  
 1:15 p.m. Adult Grape Stomping Competition  
 2:00 p.m. Jamboree Parade  
 3:40 p.m. Welcome and introduction of Festival Queens from around Ohio  
 4:20 p.m. Parade Awards  
 4:30 p.m. Geneva's Image Show Choir performance  
 5:00 p.m. Grapette Duck Race on East Main near the Recreation Center  
 5:15 p.m. Gospel Hour - Zero To Sixty a capella performance  
 6:15 p.m. Jess Kellie Adams, country music performance  
 7:45 Smokin' Ham Band country music performance

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PHOTOS BY WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Contestants in the Junior Miss Grapette Pageant and Miss Grapette competition wait for the announcement of the winners at Geneva High School.

## Grape Jamboree Court crowned

BY WARREN DILLAWAY  
warren@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — A year of great memories came to a close for one young lady and began for another on Saturday evening as Melina Cruz was crowned Miss Grapette.

"I am stoked," Cruz said after the announcement was made and the crown placed upon her head by outgoing Miss Grapette Caitlin Barnicoat.

Cruz also was voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants. Barnicoat said the award is chosen by the contestants who feel the young lady has helped the other girls the most and made the most friends.

The crowning was the culmination of a week of practices and hard work. The Miss Grapette con-



Faith York prepares to be crowned Grapette second attendant on Saturday night at Geneva High School by outgoing Miss Grapette Caitlin Barnicoat as Three Musketeer Gavin Cuccaro delivers the crown.



Cailyn King was all smiles after she was named first attendant in the Junior Miss Grapette Pageant.



The three musketeers were a new edition to the 2019 Miss Grapette Pageant. (From left) Joseph Ortiz, Parker Osado and Gavin Cuccaro delivered the crowns and sashes to the winners.

test has been an integral part of the Grape Jamboree for decades and now includes Junior Grapette, Young Grapette and Little Grapette.

Chrissy Jeppe has been on the festival's board of directors for 16 years and has run the pageant for 13 years. She said the younger

categories were added to help the younger girls learn public speaking at a younger age and begin

SEE **COURT**, PAGE 9



# COURT: Twenty-seven contestants in four divisions vie for crown

FROM PAGE 8

public service younger as well.

Tegan Gilbert was crowned second attendant and Lauren Sams crowned first attendant and plan to provide guidance for the younger girls for the next year and represent the festival around the state of Ohio. Kaydance Pavlisin was also a contestant in the Junior Grapette division.

Barnicoat said the past year was fantastic and will provide memories for a lifetime. "My dream started seven years ago when I was in third grade," she said during her farewell remarks.

She said all the girls on the court for 2018-19 will have a bond for a lifetime. "You will always be my girls," Barnicoat said.

In the Junior Grapette division Allannah Burkholder was the winner. Cailyn King was chosen for first attendant and Faith York second attendant. Sydney Manis, Kiara Jeppe and Kaitling Poling participated as well.

Lauren Sams, outgoing Junior Grapette, thanked her family and said she learned a lot during the year. She said she learned more about serving her community and developed skills, such as public speaking, which she wasn't aware she had.



Melina Cruz is crowned 2019 Miss Grapette by outgoing queen Caitlin Barnicoat at Geneva High School.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

"Traveling Ohio is so much fun," Sams said. She said the court spends so much time together a bond grows between the girls.

"These girls aren't just your friends; they are your sisters," she said.

Jeppe said there were 27 contestants in the

four divisions this year. She said serving the community is a major part of the pageant.

"I try to get to where each girl does over 40 hours of community service a year," Jeppe said. She said she tries to expose them to "real life."

Jeppe said the girls

learn that many patients in area nursing homes don't have many visitors and the girls on the court may be their only connection to the outside world.

The Young Grapette winner was Jordan Verdi. Caliee Pantoja was chosen as first attendant and Morgan

Hunt as second attendant.

The Young Grapette category also included contestants Josephine Hall, Audrianna Rockow and Nadia Crosby.

The Little Grapette competition had 11 contestants with Mireya Miller crowned queen, Piper Rogers

earning first attendant status and Taylor Verdi became second attendant.

The other contestants included Melody Winchell, Angelica Crosby, Chloe Winchell, Makenna Shaffer, Catherine Kosek, Selah Rife, Wren Rivers and Gianna Cartagena.



# New and old favorite food available at Jamboree

BY SHELLEY TERRY  
sterry@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — Festival foodies rejoice - the Grape Jamboree will feature local delicacies and a few new oddities at the traditional roadside booths and food trucks, festival concessions chairperson Natalie Goodlin said. "This year we will have all the usual favorites - the fries, pizza, fried veggies, ice cream and blooming onions everyone loves," she said. "But we are also looking at bringing in some new vendors. I think we are going to have vegan burgers this

year."

Goodlin and her husband, Matthew, are celebrating their 11th year of heading up the volunteer team that brings food concessionaires and vendors to town.

They've been concession and vendors chair persons for the past four years, and this will be their fifth with the Jamboree.

They trained for the spot two years before that.

"We look forward to every September," she said. "I've been coming to the Grape Jamboree since I was little ... I volunteer to support



WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

The intersection of Broadway and Route 20 in downtown Geneva was a busy place during the first day of the 2018 Grape Jamboree.

my community."

Goodlin said she works hard to make sure festival-goers have a variety of choices

at the Jamboree, even though many festival vendors return year after year.

"We have a 90 percent

retention rate," she said. "The vendors love the Jamboree so much, they sign up a full year in advance and we often

have a three- to-five-year waiting list. We do limit vendors based on quantity, so we don't end up with 15 sausage vendors at one time. But we are also always looking to bring that variety and something unique and different, too. So as soon as we have an opening, I'm on the lookout."

This year Jamboree foodies can enjoy ice cream, sausage, hamburgers, waffles, fried vegetables, desserts, hot dogs, corn dogs, pizza, lemonade, gyros, cheesesteak sandwiches, and the Jamboree's famous grape pies and Purple Cows.

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# Couple to be married on Grape Jamboree stage



DEVASTASHA BEAVER | FOR THE STAR BEACON

Mark Gonzalez and Stephanie McDonald of Ashtabula will be married on the Grape Jamboree stage Saturday.

**BY DEVASTASHA BEAVER**

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — Wedding bells will ring at this year's Grape Jamboree when committee members Mark Gonzalez and Stephanie McDonald tie the knot at the festival Sept. 28.

The couple were planning a September wedding, and a Grape Jamboree wedding was something the committee joked about for years, Board of Directors President Dave Johnson said.

"It's something we've talked about for years," he said. "Lots of people celebrate their anniversary there, but we've never actually had somebody get married there."

**The couple will be married on the contest stage at 11:15 a.m., and then will spend the rest of the day running the contests until 6 p.m.**

Gonzalez said Board of Directors Vice President Brian Kelly suggested it at last year's Grape Jamboree, and a lot of the planning took place at a festival convention.

"He's actually the one officiating (the wedding)," Gonzalez said.

McDonald and Gonzalez have been a couple for almost three years.

"We talked on the internet for six months," McDonald said.

"We finally met the day before New Year's Eve in 2016 at Lakeway (Restaurant). That was

our first date, and we've been together ever since."

The couple will be married on the contest stage at 11:15 a.m., and then will spend the rest of the day running the contests until 6 p.m.

"When we say our vows, we're going to be standing in buckets of grapes," McDonald said. "And right after, we're going to be stomping grapes, wedding dress and all."

Gonzalez said they recently met with Kelly to finalize the plans.

"Originally, it was supposed to be Sunday,

but the contest schedule is so tight, they said Saturday would work better," he said.

McDonald said planning the wedding has been easier than a traditional wedding because a lot of the coordinating was done by the committee.

Because they will be running the contests all weekend, the couple will not have a traditional reception.

"There will be food all around," Gonzalez said.

McDonald added,

SEE **STAGE**, PAGE 12

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# STAGE: Grape Jamboree is a special time for the couple to reconnect with family and friends

**FROM PAGE 11**

"There's wonderful food; there are drinks at Luisa's."

She will have a bouquet, featuring iridescent purple roses, arranged by Bouts and Bouquets flower shop in Geneva.

The couple is planning a cruise in early spring, they said, as a late honeymoon.

The couple said the Grape Jamboree is a special time for them to reconnect with family and friends they don't

see often.

"It brought our little family together," McDonald said. "My youngest son volunteers with us. His best friend helps with set-up and tear-down. It's a nice time to spend together with people we don't get to see all the time. And, after the games are done, we get to socialize."

McDonald has two older children, and Gonzalez has three children who live in Indiana.

While McDonald said the pie-eating contest is her favorite, she

said she loves to see the baby boys dressed up in the baby contest. Gonzalez agreed.

"I think it's fun how the games bring joy," he said. "Seeing the babies in costumes for the baby contest. It might be my favorite game."

Gonzalez, who works as a fire tech at Sievers Security in Cleveland, has been on the Grape Jamboree committee as the contest chairman for six years. He was working for Johnson when the position became available, and

Johnson asked if he would be interested, he said.

"It's fun to see the same people sign up for the games year after year," McDonald said.

McDonald works as a direct care professional at Creative Learning Workshop in Geneva. She has been volunteering for three years, and this is her first year as contest co-chair, she said.

"It's fun," she said. "We look forward to it all year."



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# Grape Jamboree hosts a variety of grape-themed events

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER

bhaytcher@starbeacon.com

GENEVA — There are a wide variety of activities that anyone can take part in at the Grape Jamboree.

Many events take place on the main stage, while others are spread through downtown Geneva.

## GRAPE STOMPING

Grape Stomping is a Jamboree tradition, and this year is no different, with two children's and two adult's events scheduled.

Children's grape stomping will start at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, and 12:45 p.m. on Sunday.

Adult grape stomping will start at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:15 on Sunday. Sign-ups will take place behind the Main Stage 30 minutes before the event itself.

Five contestants will be drawn randomly from those who signed up, for both the children's and adult's event.

## THE GENEVA GI'S

Geneva High School's show choir, Geneva's Image, will be performing at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, on the main stage.

## CHILDREN'S COSTUME CONTEST

There are two different contests for children

to win the title of Baby Grapette.

On Saturday, children 2 to 4 years old will get a chance to compete at 3:30 p.m., with sign-ups starting at 3 p.m. behind the main stage. The winner of that contest will be named Senior Baby Grapette.

At noon on Sunday, children from newborn to 23 months old will have their time in

the spotlight, and a chance to win the title of Junior Baby Grapette.

Sign-ups for the event will start at 11:30 a.m.

## ART SHOW

Entries in this year's art show can be viewed in the Geneva Recreation Center. There are nine classes for entries, from paintings

SEE HOSTS, 14

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# MARSHAL: Beth Smith has a long history of civic involvement

FROM PAGE 1

dreamed (the marshal could be me.)

Smith (a recent marriage changed her last name from Cheney) was selected to be Geneva's Citizen of the Year in December.

Per tradition, the town's top citizen serves as parade marshal, said Dave Johnson, president of

the Jamboree board of directors.

Even if that tradition was kicked to the curb, Smith's lengthy history of community service easily qualifies her to ride at the head of the parade, Johnson said.

"She is typical of so many people in the area who are doing so many good things," he said.

The Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce selected Smith as Citizen of the Year based on a long list of civic involvement, including various roles with the local Chamber, the city's Business Association, a businesswoman's organization and the local Winterfest celebration.

Smith also serves as the Jamboree's chair-

person of merchants contests and window contests committees.

She has worked many years at Rae-Ann Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Geneva, and currently oversees the admissions/marking department.

A love for the area motivates her volunteerism, Smith said.

"I think being born and raised in Geneva,

(civic involvement) is something I feel strongly about," she said.

Because of its length, the Jamboree parade is split over two days, and Smith will preside over both versions.

At 3 p.m. Saturday, following the first procession, she will receive a plaque honoring her service as marshal.

Smith is not taking her weekend duties lightly. "I've been practicing my smile and waving," she said, laughing.

Saturday's parade begins at 1:30 p.m. and features marching bands and floats.

Part Two on Sunday starts at 2 p.m. and showcases more floats and bands, as well as visiting festival queens.

## WELCOME: This year marks the 56th Grape Jamboree

FROM PAGE 1

"It's coming along very quickly," he said. "It should be as big as it is all the other years." Beyond the parade,

the food and the wine there will also be concession stands, rides and a cornhole tournament.

The Miss Grapette Contest, a staple of the

festival, was held on Sept. 21.

The Jamboree has quite a bit of storage, and all of it is needed to store the various items the event has accumu-

lated.

There are the Jamboree grape barrels that advertise the event along with grape related items.

The roof of the Jam-

boree's stage also needs stored but not the stage since it belongs to the city, Johnson said.

"We have our own storage building at the

city garage," he said.

"There's something for everyone," Johnson said. "One of the things we try to strive for is to make sure it's very family friendly."

## SATURDAY: Entertainment schedule includes variety of bands

FROM PAGE 5

tribute in the country," Johnson said. "They've been doing this for quite a few years. It looks just like

Meatloaf singing and playing."

There will be a variety of entertainment prior to All Revved Up.

At 5:30 p.m. Saturday, up and coming nation-

al country recording artist Adam Calvert, from southern Ohio, will perform followed by Cleveland magician David Anthony.

Shows on Sunday are Jess Kelly Adams at 6:15 p.m., another up and coming star in the Nashville music scene.

At 7:45 p.m. the Smokin' Ham Band, from central Ohio, which performs country music complete with steel guitar.

All the bands who will perform on Saturday and Sunday are high-energy with crowd appeal and stage

presence, Johnson said.

Although the Grape Jamboree has a small budget to work with, Johnson said they try to maximize it by picking the best acts they can find.

While the committee likes to find musicians

whose music sound good, they also want to find people who don't just stand behind a microphone, Johnson said.

"We look for people who are entertaining and also connect with the crowd," Johnson said.

## HOSTS: Festival has many grape-themed activities

FROM PAGE 13

to pictures, said Diane Trawatha-Acerca, the organizers of the art show.

There are cash prizes for the first three places in each class, and ribbons for three honorable mentions. There is also a Gold Star

Drawing that artists can opt into, where visitors can enter raffles to win pieces, according to the Jamboree's website. The event will also host the

Geneva Camera Club's yearly contest, as well as a display of Spencerian Writing, from the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, Acerca said.



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Josh Prusinski, 3, of Ashtabula, is surrounded by “grape” balloons during the 2018 Grape Jamboree in Geneva.



PHOTOS BY WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Liz Diller of Cincinnati Circus makes balloon animals for children during the 2018 Grape Jamboree parade on Saturday in Geneva.

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