

Saturday, February 1

Winterfest *2014*

Downtown Geneva Ohio



KATY BROWN
of
TNT Starlites
works with
firey
batons
during the
2013
Winterfest
Parade
in Geneva.



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

Geneva Winterfest is fun for the whole family

By MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — David Gale and Andrew White are hoping for a few snowflakes for the annual Winterfest weekend, hoping the forecast lands somewhere between 50 degree weather and the polar vortex.

The erratic weather pat-

terns are an emotional roller coaster, Gale said, as organizers try to plan for the annual Geneva Winterfest celebration.

Winterfest 2014 will be held Feb. 1 in the Geneva area. All events are free.

“As always, our biggest challenge is the weather,” Gale said. “You worry about a lack of snow for a

winter festival, but if it snows too much then you have to move it and plow it.”

Winterfest will kick off at with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the United Methodist Church on South Broadway from 9 a.m. until noon.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children for the breakfast. To-go orders will be available.

The Winterfest parade will begin at noon on North and South Broadway and will include floats, fire trucks, marching bands, and the Winterfest mascot, Lake Effect Louie.

The Geneva Fire Department will host a fire extinguisher simulator demonstration, fire station tours, free Dunkin Donut Munchkins and hot cocoa and coffee and warming stations at the fire station on North Forest Street.

The famous chili cook-off, presented by the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held in the Depot Road lot behind Griffith's Furniture. The lot is also the pick up and drop

See FAMILY on Page 3

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CHEYENNE
FISCHBACH
will hand down her
snowflake crown
to Geneva's
newest
snow
queen
at the
annual
pageant.**

MARGIE NETZEL / For the Star Beacon

Family

From Page 2

off point for free horse-drawn wagon rides through the city.

The chili cook-off will be located in tents behind Griffith's Furniture.

"We do what we can to keep our chilly chili cooks as warm as possible as they serve up cup after cup of chili," said cook off organizer and Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Sue Ellen Foote.

All chili samples are free and tasters can make their selection for the coveted Taster's Choice award for the best chili in Geneva.

"Everyone wants their chili recipe to take the top prize," Foote said. "They are serious about those bragging rights!"

The Geneva Veterans of Foreign Wars post on Depot Street will host a spaghetti dinner from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$6 per person and tickets will be sold at the door. The Community Improvement Corp. will host hot dogs and popcorn at the Geneva Community Center, where a bake sale and vendors will be set up. Ronald McDonald and Jungle Terry will also perform at the community center, with Ronald McDonald taking the stage at 2 p.m. and Jungle Terry and his happy menagerie performing at 3 p.m.

An inflatable fun land will be set up at the Geneva Recreation Center from 12:20 p.m. to 4

p.m.

The Old Mill Winery on South Broadway will host a wine tasting and entertainment from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wine is 50 cents per taste and the kitchen will be open and taking orders.

White said the area's premiere winter festival will have something for everyone.

"Of course we will have the chili cook-off and the parade and the horse-drawn sleds will be a part of Winterfest," he said. "But we will also have an indoor inflatable park at the Geneva Recreation Center and face painting."

Shuttle transportation to the village will be provided by Premier Transportation. Trolley rides will be given in the downtown area and will stop at the Old Mill Winery for the wine tasting.

The city ice skating rink will be open and free to everyone, if the weather cooperates.

"Unfortunately, there is no other way to freeze the ice in the rink other than just plain old natural cold weather, Geneva Assistant City Manager Jennifer Brown said.

If temperatures fall and the rink next to the Geneva Recreation Center is open, skate rentals will be available on site.

The Erie Brass Ensemble will take the stage at 1 p.m. at the United Church on South Broadway for a free concert.

For more information on Winterfest, visit www.genevaohio.com or call 466-4675.



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Photos by WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

ELYSE PITKIN, an 18-year-old-senior at Geneva High School, (far right) waits for the announcement of the winner of the Senior Miss Winterfest Pageant on Saturday night at the Geneva Community Center. Pitkin was crowned the winner.

Miss Winterfest 2014



CASSIDY BRUINSMA (left) smiles after being crowned Junior Miss Winterfest Saturday night at the Geneva Community Center with outgoing Young Miss Winterfest Karlie Bradbury.

By WARREN DILLAWAY
Staff Writer

GENEVA — The atmosphere was electric as parents took pictures and the announcer proclaimed Elyse Pitkin, an 18-year-old senior at Geneva High School, the new Senior Miss Winterfest on Saturday evening.

“I feel wonderful. I’m so excited. I’m very thankful,” Pitkin said after three hours of competition on Saturday evening at the Geneva Community Center.

Pitkin posed with second attendant Katelynn Salyans, 15, of Geneva, and first attendant Bond Brewster, 16, of Chardon. The girls were judged on a variety of categories including poise, smile and a lengthy interview prior to the Saturday evening competition.

Pitkin said she is looking forward to getting more involved in the community with her new position as queen of Winterfest 2014. She will also have the opportunity to represent the festival at a variety of events in the area and around the state, said pageant director Beth Cheney.

Cheney said there were 50 contestants in five divisions of the competition that include Senior Miss Winterfest, Junior Miss Winterfest, Young Miss Winterfest, Little Miss Winterfest and Tiny Miss Winterfest.



LILLY ANN AKOS, 2, of Madison, (lower left) reaches for a trophy as Winterfest Pageant royalty gather for a photograph Saturday night.

Geneva Business Association Winterfest 2014

MAP KEY

UMC United Methodist Church
89 S. Broadway

UC United Church
75 S. Broadway

GRC Geneva Recreation Center
81 E. Main Street

DEP Depot Street Parking Lot

VFW VFW Post
76 Depot Street

GCC Geneva Community Center
72 W. Main Street

GFD
Geneva Fire
Department
44 North
Forest Street

INFO
Winterfest
Information
81 E. Main Street

OMW
Old Mill Winery
403 S. Broadway



*Don't
Hibernate
Come
Celebrate*



Chili Cook-Off:



Warming Stations:



Parking:



Wagon Rides:



Pancake Breakfast:



Restrooms:



To **OMW**: Old Mill Winery

2014 Winterfest Schedule

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Winterfest Information Center	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Geneva Rec. Center
Lake Effect Louie	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Downtown Geneva and GOTL
Shadow Contest	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Downtown Geneva and GOTL
Pancake Breakfast	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	First United Methodist Church
		Adults \$5, Children \$3
Winterfest Parade	12 p.m.	South and North Broadway
Fire Extinguisher Demo	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Geneva Fire Department
Fire Station Tours	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Geneva Fire Department

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Winterfest Queen's Brunch
Spaghetti Dinner
Craft Show
Chili Cook Off
Wagon Rides
Warming Station
Inflatable Play Land
Face Painting
Off Our Rockers
Ronald McDonald Magic Show
Jungle Terry
CIC Hot Dogs & Popcorn

10 a.m.
1 p.m. until gone
1 p.m.
12 p.m. until gone
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
12- 4 p.m.
12-4 p.m.
1- 4 p.m.
1- 1:45 p.m.
2- 3 p.m.
3- 4 p.m.
Noon

VFW (invitation only)
VFW - \$6 per person
VFW
Depot Lot
Depot Lot
Depot Lot
Geneva Recreation Center
Geneva Recreation Center
Geneva Community Center
Geneva Community Center
Geneva Community Center
Geneva Community Center

Geneva Community Center

Bake Sale 12:30 until gone • Nonprofit Stands 12 to 4 p.m.

United Church

Bake Sale 12:30 until gone • Jazzercise Demo 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Erie Heights Brass Ensemble 1- 2:30 p.m.

Old Mill Winery

Wine Tasting & Entertainment 12:30- 4 p.m. \$0.50 per taste

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Geneva Winterfest offers indoor fun across the city

By MARGIE NETZEL

For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — Cold weather wimps rejoice! There are plenty of indoor activities at Geneva Winterfest this year.

The festival of chilly weather will be held Feb. 1 throughout downtown Geneva

All attractions are free to the public.

The furnace will be running at the Geneva Recreation Center on North Forest Street and Main Street, where visitors can stop at the Winterfest Information Center for the festival schedule.

The recreation center is also the home of the inflatable fun land.

Children can jump around and stay toasty warm by bouncing on the inflatable slides and trampolines from noon to 4 p.m.

The recreation center will also host face painting for children.

A short walk to the Geneva Community Center on West Main Street may be cold, but the weather inside is delightful!

The community center will host a show

by Ronald McDonald from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Jungle Terry will bring out his wet, wild and wooly animal friends for a show from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Community Improvement Corp. will host hot dogs and popcorn at the center at noon, with a bake sale beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Vendors will also sell their wares at the community center from noon to 4 p.m.

Stop by the Geneva Fire Department on North Forest Street from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for fire station tours, free Dunkin Donut Munchkins and hot chocolate, and a fire extinguisher demonstration.

The Erie Heights Brass Ensemble will perform inside the United Church from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., no gloves required.

Wine will flow in the warm walls of the Old Mill Winery with entertainment, wine samples and food on South Broadway.

Don't want to walk in the cold?

Catch a free ride on the Jolly Trolley to shuttle you from warm spot to warm spot.

JANUARY 16-FEBRUARY 10
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JAN. 25: Winterfest Beauty Pageant
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Thank You!

Red-cheeked fun courtesy of donors, businesses

By MARGIE NETZEL
 For the Star Beacon

GENEVA — From beauty queens to trolley rides, a lot of hard work goes into planning the annual Geneva Winterfest, festival coordinators David Gale and Andrew White said.

Local businesses and private donors make the festival of snow and ice both fun and affordable, as the committee works to keep every aspect of Winterfest free or affordable for families.

Gale said that success starts with local government.

"The city of Geneva is so special and the local government really supports everything the community has tried to do," he said. "It is important to mention that Winterfest and the Christmas parade and events are all funded through private individuals and local business owners. Those donations, made by the smallest

of stores and boutiques and the local residents make all this possible."

Sponsored by the Geneva Business Association, Winterfest is supported and made possible by donations of everything from money to transportation to donut holes and is powered by the energy of dedicated volunteers and business owners, Gale said.

"We want to say thank you to everyone who supports this annual winter festival," he said. "From the companies that donate money to the volunteers who help run the event, this experience cannot happen without them. All of the complimentary items have been donated. The free entertainment and prize money for contests is funded through donations from our local businesses."

"Together, business and community, we will thrive," Gale said.

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