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A special section published by The Voice June 19, 2019

# Pickerel Tournament

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aid technology available," Kari states. "Today's hearing aids are quite discreet and have improved immensely in recent years. Many can connect to Bluetooth®-enable devices such as smartphones and TV's, as well as rechargeable models."

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#### **OVERVIEW**

## 81st Pickerel Festival rolls into Algonac July 3-7

By Jim Bloch

For MediaNews Group

looking forward to one of the Algonac Pickerel Festithe most fun five days on val 2019 website for all the the summer calendar when updates. the 81st annual Pickerel Festival, sponsored by the rade rolls through the city Algonac Lions Club, fills up at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 7. the city's downtown and riverfront.

of opening night, Wednesday, July 3.

but details were not final-Algonac residents are ized at press time. Check

The main festival pa-

"We'll have local fire departments, marching high runs Wednesday through The children's parade, school bands, the Shriners, one of three parades dur- Keystone Cops and the ing the festival, is the star Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps," said Rocky Gillis, parade director. "About 20 On Saturday, July 6, look businesses have signed up for the antique boat parade to bring floats or march Sunday.

on the river. The parade in the parade. We're still usually begins at 4 p.m., looking for entrants. The registration fee is \$10."

> The annual fireworks display over the St. Clair River is set for dusk on Friday, July 5.

> And what would a Pickerel Festival be without a pickerel tournament?

> "The fishing contest Sunday with daily prizes and a \$1,000 going to the person who catches the whopper," said Gillis.

The carnival midway is open Wednesday through







On Saturday morning, the Pickerel Run feature 5 and 10K runs, starting behind the bank.

makers for the Lions Club said Gillis. is its annual raffle. The

raffle is a 14-foot Lund fish- The winner will be aning boat with a 20 HP Mer- nounced at 6 p.m. Sunday. cury and a trailer.

One of the big money Leader Dogs for the Blind,"

"You don't need to be

"All proceeds go to present to win," said Gillis. Music has always

been central to the fes-Tickets are \$1 a piece, tival. Look for Karagrand prize for this year's six for \$5 and 13 for \$10. oke in the Beer Tent on

**ALGONAC LIONS** 

Wednesday night.

Local rock and roll duo The Meldrum Brothers play the beer tent stage on Thursday and Friday nights and The Gobies -A Chesterfield Townshipbased band that plays a ects. variety of music from pop, rock and alternative music building Muskrat Place, an *html*.

to country — will rock the tent on Saturday night.

The festival is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Lions Club, which For the full calendar supports all kinds of community events and proj-

all-inclusive park at Lions Field for kids and adults of all abilities.

of events of this year's Pickerel Festival visit www.algonaclions.org/ Their newest endeavor is *Pickerel\_Tournament*.



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#### **PICKEREL FESTIVAL 2019**

## New events: Motor City Mermaids and a golf cart poker run

#### By Jim Bloch

For MediaNews Group

You won't have to stare much longer into the fast-moving waters of the St. Clair to spot your favorite mermaid.

The Motor City Mermaids are making landfall at the 2019 Pickerel Festival, sponsored by the Algonac Lions Club, each day of the event, July 3-7.

"We are a pod of professional mermaids and dedicated waterway activists, performing for a variety of events and projects to bring awareness to the Great Lakes waterways and (their) cherished animal life," according to their website.

Because, of course, even mermaids have websites.

"Performing in the greater Metro Detroit area and Blue Water area, we strive to create a fully immersive experience for our audiences young and old," the mermaids said.



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It is the group's inaugural dip own float." into Pickerel Fest.

"There will be a live mermaid show on the riverfront on Wednesday, 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday at noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m.," said Lions Club member Rocky own pool. They'll also be in the parade on Sunday at 2 p.m. on their

The owner grew up locally.

"Sirk the Siren is a fresh water mermaid born and raised on the banks of the St. Clair River." according to the mermaid website. "She is a mother of four min-Gillis. "They're bringing their nows herself and founded Motor City Mermaids in 2018 to bring awareness to the health of the

Great Lakes she calls home. She Participants receive a map and a loves her freshwater friends from set of clues directing them to varriver otters and swans to turtles, fish and frogs.

With her pod of mermaids and mythical friends, Sirk seeks to entertain and educate audiences young and old while providing a quality and realistic performance."

The mermaids are sponsored by Chemical Bank.

For more information about Motor City Mermaids, visit their rectly and receive a lucky card for website at www.motorcitymermaids.com.

#### **Poker Run**

Late last year, the Algonac City Council approved the use of personal golf carts on city streets.

What better way to highlight the new ordinance than a landbased poker run featuring golf carts — and their motorless relatives like bicycles, skate boards For more information, visit the and roller blades?

ious locations around the city where they pick up playing cards.

The quest begins at 3 p.m., Saturday, July 5 at Lions Field.

"Search for clues in and around Algonac on your golf cart, bicycle, roller blades or feet," directs the Pickerel Fest website. "Use your favorite personal electronic device to help solve them. Follow the map and the Quest Clue Packet coreach clue solved. Each participant can receive up to eight cards.'

After a few hours of running around, the contestants gather back at the beer tent at 7 p.m. Whoever can make the best poker hand of their cards wins 50 percent of the total proceeds. Second place wins 25 percent, third 15 percent and fourth 10 percent.

Algonac Lions Club website at The entry fee is \$20 per person. www.algonaclions.org.





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#### **PICKEREL FESTIVAL 2019**

## This year's festival is still all about kids and families

Free eye tests from Project Kids Sight new in 2019

By Jim Bloch

For MediaNews Group

If you subtracted the popular beer tent, nearly everything about the 81st Pickerel Festival, sponsored by the Algonac Lions Club, would be kid-friendly.

Still, many of the events are geared specifically to the younger among us.

In line with the tournament's name, Saturday morning features the Kids Fishing Contest. Registration is 8-9 a.m. on the riverfront.

Donuts, watermelon and hotdogs are among the favorite foods of kids everywhere. Each will be the subject of eating contests during the festival.

"The Kids Donut Eating Contest is Wednesday night," said Rocky Gillis, a Lions Club member. "The watermelon eating contest is Thursday. On Friday, we have the Hot Dog Eating Contest sponsored by Johnny Lega's."

Not everything is funand-games.

In place of last year's dunk tank, the Lions Club is staging Project Kids



problems in kids.

"We'll be giving free eye tests to children on the cially for kids. main fair grounds," said

Sight, an eve health event the Antique Boat Parade on designed to pinpoint sight Saturday and the festival's grand parade on Sunday.

But one parade is espe-

"We kick things off on Wednesday, July 3 with All three parades are the traditional kids parade child-friendly, including sponsored by Score Board

and More," said Gillis, who is the chair of the main festival parade on Sunday, July 7. "Groups of kids and families get together and build their own floats and a lot of kids bring their dogs."

The carnival is always a central component of sum- ward to it," said Gillis. Friday, July 5.



mer festivals.

is returning this year with their Ferris wheel, carousels and all the like," said Gillis.

The midway is open every day of the festival.

show is one of the most popular events of the festival.

"Everybody looks for-

"We'll be shutting down "T.J. Schmidt & Company M-29 again at 6 p.m. Gabriel Marine is donating their barge."

The fireworks company will launch its array of starbursts, spinners and shells The annual fireworks ranging in diameter from one to five inches from the barge over the St. Clair River beginning at dusk,











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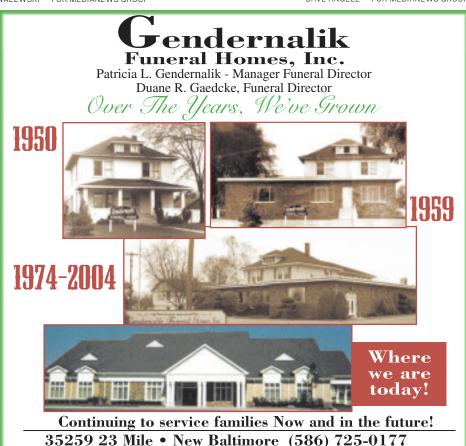
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#### **PICKEREL FESTIVAL 2019**

## Schedule of events

#### Wednesday, July 3

#### 5 p.m.

- Midway and Tournament open until
- Fishing Contest open No daily prize
- Kids Parade gather at Michigan and

#### 7 p.m.

■ Beer Tent open till Midnight - Karaoke

#### Thursday, July 4 12 p.m.

Midway and Tournament open until

#### 12 - 6 p.m.

• Bingo on the Riverfront

#### 7 p.m.

• Beer Tent open till Midnight -MELDRUM BROTHERS BAND

#### Friday, July 5

#### 12 p.m.

• Midway and Tournament open until midnight

#### 12 - 6 p.m.

■ Bingo on the Riverfront

#### 7 p.m.

■ Beer Tent open until 1 a.m. - MELDRUM Sunday, July 7 **BROTHERS BAND** 

#### 10 p.m.

• FIREWORKS ON THE RIVER

#### Saturday, July 6

• Pickerel Run 5/10k behind Post Office 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

#### • Kids Fishing Contest on the Boardwalk

- Registration 8-9am

#### 12 p.m.

• Midway and Tournament open until 11 p.m.

#### 7 p.m.

Beer Tent open until midnight - THE



PHOTOS BY DAVE ANGELL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

#### 12 p.m.

 Midway and Tournament open until 6 p.m.

#### 12 - 6 p.m.

• Bingo on the Riverfront

#### 12 p.m.

• Honor Ceremony for the Veterans on

#### 2 p.m.

• Street Parade from Mill St. to Michigan

#### Awarding of the Whopper Fish Prize 6:16 p.m.

• Drawing of the Grand Prize Boat





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