

*Celebrating  
56 years*

# LORAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**JUNE 28 - 30, 2024**



**Black River Landing  
421 Black River Lane, Lorain, OH 44052**

# Come celebrate your heritage with us!

June 28th - 30th, 2024

Hours: Friday 5-11pm / Saturday 12-11pm / Sunday 12-5pm

Located at: Black River Landing Festival Site in Lorain Ohio

The Lorain International Festival celebrates your culture.

The week-long festival begins the last full week of June every year, with numerous separate events taking place mainly in downtown Lorain.

Various nationalities, cultures and community are celebrated with the sharing of gifts from many homelands through food, music, costume and tradition.

The three-day bazaar takes place along the scenic Black River Landing site, and features a multitude of foods with a wide variety of ethnic cuisine to sample.

There is wonderful entertainment throughout the weekend including on-going live performances.

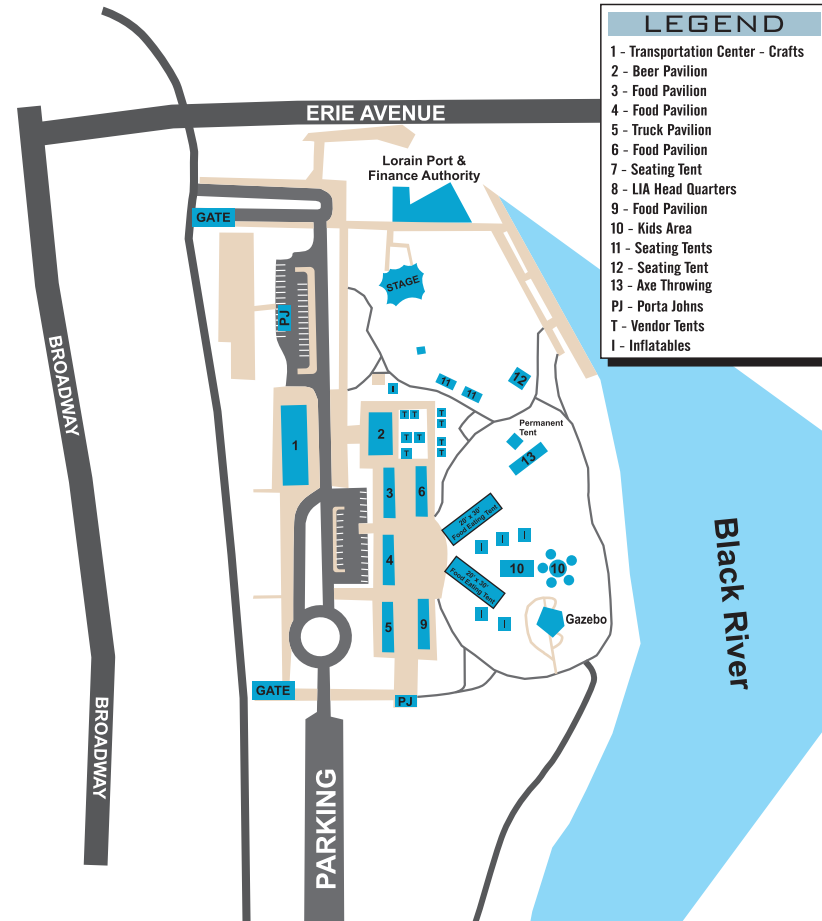
Stop by the different cultural booths that feature crafts and items from many homelands.



There are covered dining areas, paved walkways and free parking.

The mission of the International Festival is to promote Lorain as an international port and center of international commerce.

The mission also is to develop pride in the cultural and spiritual heritage of the people of the city and surrounding areas by honoring customs and traditions of the lands of their origin and ancestry.



# Be Wowed!

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56TH ANNUAL

# LORAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

JUNE 28 - 30

**Festival Week: June 24 - 30**



**FRIDAY 06.21**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL NIGHT**

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM @ FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

**TUESDAY 06.25**

**HERITAGE OF SACRED MUSIC**

7:00 PM @ ST. PETER'S PARISH, LORAIN

**WEDNESDAY 06.26**

**INTERNATIONAL BREAKFAST**

8:00 AM @ GERMAN'S VILLA, VERMILION

**THURSDAY 06.27**

**PRINCESS PAGEANT**

7:00 PM @ LORAIN HIGH SCHOOL

**FRIDAY 06.28**

**LORAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

5:00 PM - 11:00 PM @ BLACK RIVER LANDING  
FT. DIRECT ENERGY @ 8:00 PM

**SATURDAY 06.29**

**LORAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

12:00 PM - 11:00 PM @ BLACK RIVER LANDING  
FT. CASANOVA FOLLOWED BY MOTOWN SOUNDS  
OF TOUCH STARTING @ 7:00 PM

**SUNDAY 06.30**

**LORAIN INTERNATIONAL PARADE**

11:30 AM ON BROADWAY AVE.

**LORAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM @ BLACK RIVER LANDING

**Featuring:**

**Friday 06.28: Direct Energy**

8:00 PM - 11:00 PM



**Sat. 06.29: Motown Sounds of Touch**

9:15 PM - 11:00 PM



For more details, visit  
[www.loraininternational.com](http://www.loraininternational.com)



*Spotlighting the African  
American Community  
and First Responders*



## Lorain International Princess Pageant

Thursday June 27 at 7:00pm

Lorain High School Performing Arts Center  
2600 Ashland Avenue Lorain, OH 44052

Tickets will be available at the door of the event- cash, check or via online sales. Doors open at 6:00pm Tickets purchased the day of the event will cost \$15.00. Children under 12 are free. Please come and join the Lorain International Association as we present our 54th Lorain International Princess Pageant. The 17 young women will be highlighting their individual nationalities through their ethnic attire and talent! This year, the Lorain International spotlights the African American community as our spotlight!



## Facts about the Lorain International Festival

The Lorain International Festival and Bazaar will take place from 5-11 p.m., June 28, noon to 11 p.m., June 29, and noon to 5 p.m., June 30, at the Black River Landing Festival site, 421 Black River Lane in downtown.

The Lorain International Festival Parade starts at 11:30 a.m., June 30, on Broadway in downtown Lorain.

The 56th annual festival is spotlighting the African American community and Lorain County first responders.

The 2023 Queen and Court were Queen Madaleine Lake, first runner up Ana Fabanich MacDonald, second runner up Alexandra Schmidt and third runner up Lily Kniahynckyj.

### Our Mission

*To promote Lorain, Ohio as an international port and center of international commerce. To develop pride in the cultural and spiritual heritage of the people of the city and surrounding areas by honoring customs and traditions of the lands of their origin and ancestry.*

# Meet Our Princesses



## Nadra Noble

Age: 16

**Nationality:** African American  
**Sponsor:** Lorain Club of The National Association Negro Business and Profession Women's Club.

**Parents:** Arthur Noble and Heather Noble  
**School:** Lorain High School

**Future plans:** I hope to be a veterinarian.

**Costume:** This dress is an off-the-shoulder dress with a vibrant kente pattern with some geometric designs in yellow, orange, blue and green. These colors all have meaning behind them. Green represents planting and growth; yellow represents royalty and wealth; and blue represents peace and harmony. I will be adding jewelry that adds the significance of royalty and wealth as well. This dress was crafted with care right in Ghana.

**Favorite native dish:** Greens

**Why you wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to be an International princess because growing up I always attended the festivals. I always went to the parades, and I've always looked up to the older girls who participated in the pageant. I also want my younger sister to look up to me so she can do this, too, once she grows older.

**Princess comments:** I just want to thank God, my friends and family for supporting me through all of this. I'm very honored that I am getting the opportunity to represent my heritage as a mixed girl. I want other girls like me to know it's OK. Let your part of you shine bright. I want to be a start of a tradition, and I wish for this to pass on generation to generation.



## Iyanah Michala Hernandez

Age: 17

**Nationality:** Puerto Rican  
**Sponsor:** Friendship Animal Protective League of Lorain County  
**Parents:** Erica Cruz

**School:** Lorain County JVS

**Future plans:** Still deciding

**Costume:** I'm wearing long bomba styled dress with red and blue details to represent Puerto Rico. For my headpiece, I'm wearing the Flor de Maga which is the national flower of Puerto Rico.

**Favorite family tradition:** My favorite tradition is celebrating Christmas with all of my family.

**Favorite native dish:** My favorite native dish is pastelillos.

**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to be an International princess for the experience, but mainly I wanted to become one to represent my culture.

What's special to me about representing my nationality at this year's International Festival is that I am the same age as my grandfather when he came to the U.S. from the island.



## Amaya Alexandria Torres

Age: 16

**Nationality:** Puerto Rican  
**Sponsor:** LAMA Lorain Chapter  
**Parents:** Alexandria Rosa, Robert Torres  
**School:** Magnificat High School  
**Future plans:** Attend college and earn a degree in cybersecurity.

**Costume:** I am wearing a traditional Puerto Rican dress that was made specially in Puerto Rico. My dress is white with a star belt, which represents the beautiful colors of our nationality.

**Favorite family tradition:** Cooking with my family on Thanksgiving.

**Favorite native dish:** Arroz con gandules.

**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to be an International Princess because I wanted to be a representation to people everywhere that there is more to being Puerto Rican than just a typical look. I am proud to represent Puerto Rico at the Lorain International Festival. I am extremely happy with who I am and where I am today. I am excited to see what impact that I can make on people everywhere, and hopefully I can inspire others.



## Adrienne Clark

Age: 20

**Nationality:** Ukrainian  
**Sponsor:** St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church

**Parents:** Brian and Melissa Clark  
**School:** Baldwin Wallace University  
Conservatory of Music

**Future plans:** In the future, I hope to have my own music therapy practice in Lorain.

**Costume:** I am wearing a folk costume representative of central Ukraine. It also contains elements that are common throughout the country. It was handmade by my mother with traditional hand embroidery.

**Favorite family tradition:** Eating traditional Ukrainian food on holidays  
**Favorite dish:** Pyrohi and deruny (potato pancakes)

**Why I wanted to be a princess:** My mother was a Ukrainian princess when she was in high school, and I wanted to carry on the tradition. Both of my parents have Ukrainian ancestry and I want to show how proud I am to be Ukrainian. It is an honor to represent my Ukrainian heritage in the Lorain International Festival for the second year in a row. I loved being able to share the culture and history of Ukraine so much last year. I met so many people and my fellow princesses were all so kind. I am very excited to represent Ukraine again this year.



## Da'Mycha Smith

Age: 18

**Nationality:** African American  
**Sponsor:** Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.  
Iota Phi Omega Chapter

**Future plans:** Attend The Ohio State University and become a dentist.

**Favorite food:** Sweet potato pie

**Why I wanted to be a princess:** Participation in the Lorain International Pageant has honed my leadership, deepened my understanding of heritage and fostered connections with diverse cultures.

**Abigail Mae Ensminger****Age:** 17**Nationality:** Filipino American**Sponsor:** Filipino American Foundation of Ohio**Parents:** James and Rowena Ensminger**School:** Marion L. Steele High School. In the future, I hope to attend college and study psychology as well as philosophy.**Costume:** My dress is a classic Filipiniana. This garment is a traditional, hand-woven and embroidered event dress. The costume represents the beauty of classic Filipino attire. It is classic and elegant, as the style is heavily inspired by Maria Clara, who is a symbol of elegance, modesty, and virtue in the Philippines.**Favorite family tradition:** My favorite Filipino tradition is getting together with friends and family and having a potluck, when we all bring Filipino dishes, sing karaoke and simply celebrate our culture and togetherness.**Favorite native dish:** Pancit, which is Filipino noodles, with vegetables and meat.**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to become an International princess in order to share my culture and help my community. Growing up, I always looked forward to the International Festival each year and aspired to be a princess. This opportunity is one that allows young women to participate in such beautiful cultural events and I am grateful to finally be a part of it. Representing the Filipino community in the Lorain International Festival means a great deal to me. I was always inspired by my mother, not only for her bravery but also for her endless dedication to creating a better life for her family here in America. She immigrated from the Philippines and continues to share her culture with our entire family. My mother makes me proud**SEE PAGE 9****Gina Rodgers****Age:** 20**Nationality:** Scottish**Sponsor:** Lorain Palace Theatre**Parents:** Mark and Tracy Rodgers**School:** Lorain County Community College**Future plans:** I am transferring to Cleveland State University to pursue a bachelor of arts in music.**Costume:** My costume is a variation of traditional highland dance attire worn in competition. It consists of a white blouse worn under a black velvet vest paired with a red kilt made from yards of pleated tartan wool. My favorite part of my costume is how the heavy pleats in my kilt swish around when I move or dance.**Favorite tradition:** Preparing food and having my family over for Christmas and Easter dinner.**Favorite native dish:** Fish and chips**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to be an International princess after being inspired by former princesses that I know who have competed in this pageant.**Princess comments:** As a native of Lorain, I have always enjoyed the cultural diversity that the city has to offer. This is why I am so honored to share my Scottish culture and British heritage with my hometown in this year's festival. Being an International princess has always been a dream of mine and I am excited to finally embark on this empowering journey.**Leilani Soto****Age:** 16**Nationality:** Puerto Rican**Sponsor:** Coalition For Hispanic/Latino Progress**Parents:** My mother is Ilianis Mercado and my father is Miguel Angel Soto Lisboa, and my stepfather who raised me is Richard Mercado**School:** Lorain High School**Future plans:** I would like to attend Ohio University and study music education to hopefully become a music teacher**Costume:** My costume consists of a white base as a skirt and top. My skirt is a traditional plena skirt that has a traditional red flower called Flor de Maga. My top is an off the shoulder top meant for parties and has a Puerto Rican flag on it. It also has stripes of the flag colors on it. My outfit was brought in from Puerto Rico and was all handmade.**Favorite family tradition:** My favorite family tradition is Noche Buena, which is the celebration of Christmas Eve. My family has a big get together where we eat a lot of our traditional favorite foods and open gifts together celebrating Christmas as a big family together.**Favorite native dish:** My favorite dish would be Sopa de Platano (plantain soup).**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I am very grateful to represent Puerto Rico this year in the International Festival. This is something that I am honestly very excited and grateful to be able to do. Since I moved from my native home at a very young age and didn't get the full traditional experience of living there and getting able to dress up and represent my culture, being able to do it here is amazing. My sister was able to represent Puerto Rico during "La Semana Puertorriqueña" in Puerto Rico. She**SEE PAGE 9****Penelope Amaranto Wallace****Age:** 18**Nationality:** Filipino**Sponsor:** Lorain Education Association**Parents:** Chris and Amor Wallace**School:** Lorain High School. In the future, I hope to attend college to major in medicine and be a doctor.**Costume:** I am wearing a "Maria Clara Dress." It represents the timeless beauty and grace of Filipino fashion. Filipino colors reveal cultural identity through symbolism, Green stands for nature and growth. The white, star-shaped flower prints are called Sampaguita and bear blooms for the full year. Just like me, I bloom wherever I am planted. My grandmother had them sent from the Philippines when she found out about my competition. My mom wore the same gown to represent her town in pageantry and won the title.**Favorite family tradition:** Celebrating the inherited tradition from Spain called "fiesta," which is a party where everyone is invited to join to eat, sing and connect. Every barrio, town, province and city has their fiesta to celebrate once a year. **Favorite native dish:** Sinigang is a Filipino soup characterized by its sour taste due to its main ingredient " tamarind." Paired with hot rice it just tastes like home. I was my parents' little princess and my mom would always tell me to think like one. A princess is not afraid to fail. I want the little girls to believe in their dreams.**Why you wanted to be a princess:** When I heard about International princesses, I knew I could use this platform to influence and to take the opportunity to represent my culture and the Filipino people.**Princess comments:** I am humbled to represent my Filipino heritage at the Lorain International Festival. Migrating from one**SEE PAGE 9****Gracie Morell****Age:** 17**Nationality:** Puerto Rican**Sponsor:** El Centro De Servicios Soc**Parents:** Victor and Heather Morell**School:** Amherst Steele High School**Future plans:** I plan to go to college and major in biology to then medical school in order to become an orthopedic surgeon.**Costume:** My beautiful dress is handmade by a Lorain woman and Puerto Rican native Carmen Corcino. The dress is a typical party style dress that can be worn for many different occasions and celebrations. In my hair, I'm wearing a Flor de Maga, the national flower of Puerto Rico symbolizing bravery and resilience in challenging times. I am also honoring my Abuela and Abuelo by wearing a pearl necklace that they gifted me.**Favorite ethnic tradition:** I love quinceañeras and the cultural significance as well as the beauty and love surrounding them. It has been beautiful to see my cousins celebrate their quinceañeras, and it was a magical experience to celebrate mine.**Favorite native dish:** Tostones (fried smashed plantains)**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I have always loved going to the International Festival and seeing the princesses, getting to admire their beauty and love for their heritage. I wanted to become an International princess as a way to connect with my beautiful culture and to show people how much being Puerto Rican means to me. I am honored to represent my Puerto Rican heritage as an International Princess. I hope to honor my Abuela and Abuelo who worked hard to make a successful life in Lorain. They and my parents have instilled within me a great appreciation for our culture. They have also passed down our wonderful traditions and stories of perseverance, both of which I will be sure to share.

**Ivy Olejko****Age:** 16**Nationality:** Polish**Sponsor:** The Polish Fishermen's Club of Lorain**Parents:** Lynette and Chris Olejko**School:** Lorain High School**Future plans:** I would like to attend The Ohio State University after high school and major in criminology and minor in English.**Costume:** My vest is hand stitched with beads and embroidery to show the handiwork of a needle. Along with my blouse as well, my skirt has been worn by three other Polish princesses in my family and was passed down to me. My skirt is worn by young women for special occasions, festivals, weddings and more. The flowers and ribbons in my hairpiece symbolize me being unmarried.**Favorite native dish:** Kielbasa & Sauerkraut  
**Princess comments:** I am very grateful to be representing Poland at the Lorain International Festival this year.**Why I wanted to be a princess:** I have wanted to be a Polish princess since I was a little girl. When I was a baby, I would sit on my grandpa's lap and bounce to the different music during the Festival. He'd call me his "Little Polish princess." I loved going to the International Parade and Festival as a kid just to see the princesses. Seeing them wave at me and how pretty they all looked, I knew I wanted to be an International princess. I remember my third grade teacher taking me to the Princess Pageant in 2017 because her daughter was in it, and I remember telling her I want to be like them one day. Here I am years later following my childhood dreams. I am very connected with Lorain emotionally; I've lived in Lorain my whole life, my family is very well known throughout the entire city due to my grandfather, Alex 'KiKi' Olejko being the mayor of Lorain from 1984-1995.**Noor Deif****Age:** 17**Nationality:** Palestinian**Sponsor:** Palestinian American Heritage Society**Parents:** Najwa Alnimer and Yasser Deif**School:** Lorain High School/LCCC Early College High School**Future plans:** I plan to attend The Ohio State University to major in biology with a pre- medicine track.**Costume:** My outfit, consisting of a black and red embroidered dress (thobe), belt and headpiece, is the traditional wear of the Palestinians. This outfit is famous for its unique embroidery called Tatreez, that is completely hand stitched. This form of embroidery has always been associated with Palestine, and its patterns tell our stories, illustrate our cities, and portray our roads. While each city and town have their own style of dress, the black and red is the typical style for all of Palestine, yet the type of embroidery shows exactly where we're from. Part of my outfit is gold. Palestinians' hands, necks, ears, feet and even hair, are always adorned in gold. To us, gold symbolizes wealth, happiness, healthiness and stability. Gold also is a method of investment in our culture, allowing for the said stability of our lives and future.**Favorite family tradition:** One of my favorite family traditions is how we celebrate our religious holidays, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha. We typically begin celebrating the evening before the holiday, by preparing special sweets called Ma'amoul, decorating our house for the occasion and getting our Eid gifts from our parents. On the day of Eid, we typically wear newly bought clothes, visit family and enjoy the day, and have dinner together to end our day.**Favorite native dish:** My favorite native**SEE PAGE 9****Naila Cristina Dower****Age:** 17**Nationality:** Puerto Rican**Sponsor:** Lorain Public Library System**Parent:** Awilda Dower and Tyree Dower**School:** Lorain High School**Future plans:** Go to college and work in the medical field.**Costume:** My outfit is a traditional jibarita that contains a colorful flowy skirt and a ruffled top. This outfit is worn for large events with dancing and music and dates back to Taino people who first inhabited Puerto Rico.**Favorite family tradition:** My favorite family tradition is getting together with my family for Christmas and enjoying Puerto Rican food.**Favorite native dish:** Pollo guisado**Why you wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to be an International princess because growing up I remember going to the festival and seeing the princesses. I always wanted to be one when I was older. So, when I got the opportunity, I knew I had to do it.**Princess comments:** What is special to me about doing this is making my grandparents proud because they came from Puerto Rico and always encouraged me to be immersed in my culture. My grandfather Jerry Sanchez always taught me about the beautiful island and gave me great pride in being Puerto Rican. My grandmother Gladys Sanchez, not only cooked the best Spanish dishes, but as soon as I was tall enough for a stove, she passed the family recipes down to me.**Nevaeh Jackson****Age:** 17**Nationality:** African American**Sponsor:** Friendship Baptist Church**School:** Marion L. Steele High School**Future plans:** I plan on going to college and major in political science and international business.**Costume:** My dress is handmade with Ankara fabric, which is also referred to as African wax fabric. The red in my dress symbolizes growth, vitality and the blood that unites all black African ancestry.**Favorite family tradition:** Coming together as a family for every holiday or event, dancing and enjoying each other's company.**Favorite native dish:** Soul food**Why you wanted to be a princess:** I wanted to be a princess to develop personally and to honor and explore my heritage.**Vanessa Candelario****Age:** 20**Nationality:** Puerto Rican**Sponsor:** Sacred Heart Chapel**Parents:** Javier Candelario & Selena Jacinto-Candelario**School:** Graduated from Marion L. Steele High School and attend Bowling Green State University**Future plans:** I am majoring in hospitality**Costume:** My costume is a Jibaro style three-piece set with a white blouse, white skirt and fabric belt. The dress serves as a canvas with hand painted maga hibiscus flowers that adorn the bell skirt and the ruffle on the blouse. There are red and blue ribbons and white lace accents on the dress. A hibiscus flower worn in my hair with red jewelry and sandals completes the costume.**Favorite family tradition:** Quinceañera, which is a celebration of a girls 15th birthday**Favorite native dish:** Pastelillos and Pernil  
**Why you wanted to be a princess:** I have always wanted to be an International princess because it seems interesting and fun. Growing up, I enjoyed getting to see all the different dresses from around the world and watch the groups dance on stage. I love to travel and learn about different cultures. I thought by being in the pageant I can learn firsthand from my peers about what makes their heritage special. That way I know more about different countries and can decide what places I want to visit someday.**Princess comments:** I am happy to share my heritage with other people. There are so many fun traditions, great food, art and entertainment that Puerto Rico has to offer. I am proud of my heritage stemming from a mix of Taino, Spanish and African traditions.

Car, Truck, Motorcycle Show & Flea Market



# Roads-Rails-N-Sales

5th Annual

421 Black River Ln.  
Lorain Ohio 44052

SEPT. 15, 2024

10-3 / Show Reg 9-12 / \$10  
Charity Event / AMMY  
Awards / GB 1st 200

Raffles  
50/50  
Music  
Food



- Mark Janke -

General Info:  
Gary: 440-759-3097  
Flea Market:  
Gail: 440-242-8439

Presented By: Lorain's Caboose Committee & Lorain Growth Corp.



# PRINCESSES CONTINUED

## Noor Deif

dish is musakhan, a Palestinian dish composed of roasted chicken, caramelized onion, sumac, roasted pine nuts and olive oil. All is served on taboon bread and baked.

### Why you wanted to be a princess:

Being an International princess has been my dream ever since I learned about the pageant. My heritage is very important to me and makes me who I am, so there is no better way for me to represent it other than being a princess and sharing my life and culture with others. Being able to meet other people and learn about their cultures and traditions is also significant to me, as I believe that it is important to truly appreciate all of our differences and how similar we are to each other.

Princess comments: I am honored to be representing my Palestinian heritage for the Lorain International Festival. I am especially proud of my people, who continue to stay strong and have faith in our home, despite the constant pain that they experience. I hope to bring awareness, and to advocate for my people, to truly help others understand what is happening and the change that needs to occur.

## Penelope Amaranto Wallace

country to another made me resilient to change and value my cultural beliefs more. I wanted to inspire girls to be respectful of themselves and others in all ways. Filipinos are known for their kind and caring nature, always willing to lend a hand. I want to pass on these characteristics to my community.

## Leilani Soto

dressed up in a traditional ethnic outfit. I never got to experience this, so having this opportunity is honestly something that I am really proud of and my whole family is as well. I am thankful for everything that this experience will bring and hope to learn so much more about my culture. I also hope to learn more about other cultures and appreciate them as well.

## Abigail Mae Ensminger

to be a Filipino American, because to me it means always being compassionate and strong-willed just like she is. Now that I can be here and share my culture with others, I feel endlessly grateful to both her and those around me.



## Ariel Broadway Hotel Event Center & Rooftop

Anniversaries ~ Date Nights  
Reunions ~ Wedding  
Corporate Events ~ Retreats

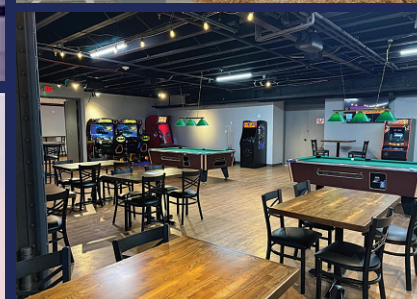
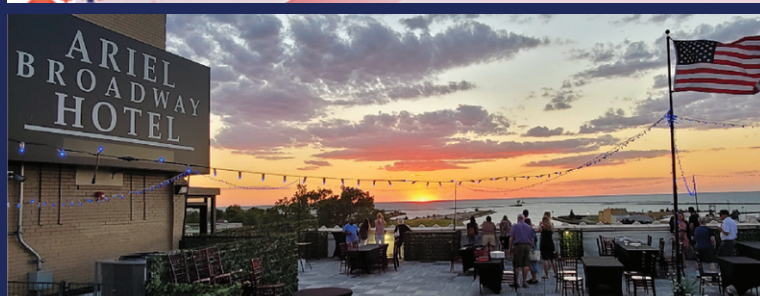
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take in the views from the  
*Rooftop Sunset Bar & Bistro*  
at the *Ariel Broadway Hotel*  
select weekend nights  
details, reservations available on-line



Our new Broadway Grill & Games, a family friendly restaurant, arcade & bar with an eclectic mix of food and global flavors to create a unique and exciting culinary adventure, located in the lower level of the hotel

# Entertainment

## Direct Energy on June 28, opening night

Direct Energy pays tribute to the very best classic rock music, recreating hits from legendary rock artists such as Chicago, The Eagles, Toto, Foreigner, The Doobie Brothers, REO Speedwagon, Toto, Boz Scaggs, Bad Company, Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan, Joe Cocker and the list goes on. The band puts their heart and soul into every performance, living up to their name. The band brings these era-defining recordings back to life with every electrifying performance, taking you through a powerful musical journey.

## The Motown Sounds of TOUCH is the headliner June 29

*The Motown Sounds of TOUCH is the Premier No. 1 "Old School" and Motown Sound Tribute Band in the Land!*

The Motown Sounds of TOUCH has entertained and delighted audiences all over the country for over 15 years. Their energetic dance performances and engaging personalities have brought many an audience to their feet! Eight to 10 million viewers saw Touch perform and become a Top 3 finalist on the NBC TV Show "The Winner Is" hosted by Nick Lachey. TOUCH members have also written songs for Motown artists the Jackson 5 and "The King of Pop" Michael Jackson! Recently, TOUCH was the featured entertainment at the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, where Ken Griffey Jr., Dave Parker and Ron Oester were inducted into the Reds Hall of Fame.

The Motown Sounds of TOUCH sings smash hits from artists such as: The Four Tops, Earth, Wind and Fire, Marvin Gaye, The O'Jays, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, the Temptations, Luther Vandross, the Commodores and many more!

## The Motown Sounds of TOUCH



## IF YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT FOSTER PARENTING

**TAKING THE NEXT STEP IS JUST ONE  
PHONE CALL AWAY.**

Take the next step and learn how to become a licensed foster caregiver for children in Lorain County.

**Call Judith Padua,  
Lorain County  
Children Services  
440-329-5608 or visit  
ChildrenServices.org**





**Casanova, a Gerald Levert tribute band,  
is the opening act June 29**

A band of musicians that came from different backgrounds and styles of music, ranging from Funk, Motown, and R & B, to Classic Rock, Pop and Top 40! Members came up with the "Casanova" name because they all were Gerald Levert fans. The band came together in 2017 and performed many shows from Mutt & Jeffs Lorain to the Glenville Festival in Cleveland with popular group Force MD's in 2018! Casanova expanded its selections of music genres

to playing more Motown funk and R&B!

Members say it is an honor to be selected to perform at the annual Lorain International Festival especially for the African American culture year!

The Lorain International Festival Breakfast will take place from 8-10 a.m. June 26 at German's Villa, 3330 Liberty Ave. in Vermilion. The cost is \$15 per person.

56TH ANNUAL LORAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**ENTERTAINMENT  
SCHEDULE** JUNE 28 - 30

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28**

- 5:15 OPENING CEREMONIES BEGIN
- 6:15 AFRICAN ROYALTY DANCERS
- 6:30 LORAIN HUNGARIAN DANCERS
- 8:00 DIRECT ENERGY

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29**

- 1:30 RAKS SHADAN DANCE TROUPE
- 2:00 DONAUSCHWABISCHE BLASKAPELLE
- 3:00 LOCHABER PIPE BAND HIGHLAND DANCERS
- 4:00 AFRICAN ROYALTY DANCERS
- 4:30 CHAMBERLAIN IRISH DANCERS
- 5:00 LORAIN HUNGARIAN DANCERS
- 5:30 ALMA DE MEXICO
- 7:00 CASANOVA
- 9:15 MOTOWN SOUNDS OF TOUCH

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30**

- 1:30 VISITING ROYALTY INTRODUCTIONS
- 2:00 LULU'S BUTTON BOX REVUE
- 3:00 REALITY CHECK
- 3:30 SHOJOJI JAPANESE DANCERS
- 4:00 FILIPINO AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF OHIO
- 4:30 THE INNER CIRCLE HELLENIC DANCERS



For more details, visit  
[www.loraininternational.com](http://www.loraininternational.com)



*Spotlighting the African  
American Community  
and First Responders*

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## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County**

*Empowering Youth – Igniting Potential*

**One-On-One Mentoring**  
*Plus... Free*

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Social & Emotional Learning            | Family Engagement Activities |
| Academic Enrichment & Tutoring         | Parent University            |
| Career & College Readiness Programming | Learning Resource Center     |
|  | Summer Camps                 |

**To Learn More About Becoming an Adult Mentor,  
or Enrolling a Child, Go To:**

[BigLorainCounty.org](http://BigLorainCounty.org) or Call (440) 277-6541

*Thanks to grants and the generosity of many, all programs are NO COST.*

*BBBSLC has been recognized by BBBS of America as a winner of the National Quality Award for program quality and the National Growth Award for increasing services by over 51 percent.*



# **2024 LORAIN INTERNATIONAL VENDORS**

**JUNE 28 - 30**

**CHOCOLATE  
TREASURES**

AMERICAN

**BANGKOK HOUSE**

THAI

**BERARDI'S FRIES**

AMERICAN

**DECHELLI'S ITALIAN**

CREATIONS

ITALIAN

**EMMANUEL & NICK'S**

TAVERNA

GREEK

**GIANT PERCH TRUCK**

AMERICAN

**GREATER VICTORY**

CHURCH

AFRICAN AMERICAN

**GWENNIES**

JAMAICAN JERK

JAMAICAN

**HERSHEY'S**

HUNGARIAN

**HOMESTYLE BBQ**

AFRICAN AMERICAN

**ISLAND DELIGHTS**

AMERICAN

**KENIYAS KITCHEN**

BAHAMIAN

**KIEDROWSKI'S**

BAKERY

POLISH

**KONA ICE OF**

WESTLAKE

HAWAIIAN

**LASUA**

NIGERIAN

**LEOLA'S LITTLE**

KITCHEN

AFRICAN AMERICAN

**LORENZO'S PIZZA**

ITALIAN

**MISSY MAYHEM'S**

TACOS & MORE

MEXICAN/AMERICAN

**MOMMY'S BAKERY**

AMERICAN

**NEW ORLEANS**

CREOLE CONNECTION

CREOLE

**NICKALOS CARRIBEAN**

CATERING

JAMAICAN

**ROOSTER KITCHEN**

THAI

**SACRED HEART**

CHAPEL

MEXICAN/PUERTO RICAN

**SUNFLOWER**

GOURMET

UKRAINIAN

**SUGAR AND SPICE**

ENGLISH

**TDR ACADEMY/**

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SWEETS BY MONIQUE

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For more details, visit  
[www.loraininternational.com](http://www.loraininternational.com)



*Spotlighting the African  
American Community  
and First Responders*

# Around the World TRIVIA

**Wednesday, June 26**  
**6:15 to 7:45 p.m.**  
**Main Library**

Prepare for the Lorain International Festival and test your knowledge of countries around the world. Prizes and refreshments will be provided. Preregistration required.



## THE EVENT

Admission is \$3 a person at the North and South Gates. We now offer credit card payment at the gates. Kids 12 and under are free of charge! No Group Rates. Anyone under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult after 6pm.



## ANIMALS

We are unable to allow pets at our event unless they are a registered service animal please contact us for more information.

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*Good luck to  
all the princesses!*

**Things To Do? Call The Dudes!**  
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**Join us in  
Our  
2024  
Parade!**

Sunday, June 30, 2024  
11:30am



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*A Hometown Celebration*

**Saturday  
November 30th**



**Join us for the events scheduled for your family's enjoyment:**

**Parade down Broadway at 4:00 PM**

**Lighting & Entertainment Veteran's Park 5:00 PM**

**Fireworks at City Hall 6:00 PM**

**Visit Santa Black River Landing 5 to 9:00 PM**

**International Trees & Model Trains**

**Transportation Center**

**421 Black River Landing**

**Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Hours: Friday-Saturday 5-9 pm**

**Sunday 3-7 pm**



*Closed Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>*

**Visit Santa in his Workshop  
across from the Transportation Center**



**LORAIN'S CABOOSE**

**C-3855**

**LEARN MORE/GET INVOLVED**

**[www.loraincaboose.org](http://www.loraincaboose.org)**

**[3855support@loraincaboose.org](mailto:3855support@loraincaboose.org)**

***Main Street Development/Lorain Growth Corporation***

*"Mobilizing Resources To Promote Businesses and Maintain A Vibrant Business District."*

***LGC Tourism Committee***

*"The Mission of the Tourism Committee of The Lorain Growth Corporation shall be to increase economic growth to the City of Lorain by increasing the number of tourists who visit our city."*

*All of the committees under LGC have incredible volunteers who have works for years to make Lorain a place to be proud of. We are always looking for other to offer their special skills and help.*

*Contact Bob McDonald: [rembob@roadrunner.com](mailto:rembob@roadrunner.com) or Gail Bonsor: 440-242-8439*

