

LOCAL EVENTS

By Gail Vannelli, Contributing Writer

- The **GEAUGA FRESH FARMERS' MARKET** takes place at 5205 Chillicothe Rd., Chagrin Falls, every Saturday through October 16th. Market hours are 9am-12pm.
- The **CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIR** takes place August 9-14 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Middleburg Heights. See <https://www.cuyfair.com>.
- The **CHAGRIN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** is having its last Simple Summer Nights Concert, Funkology, on August 11 at 6:30pm.
- The **CHAGRIN VALLEY LITTLE THEATRE** is presenting Disney's *Newsies* on August 12 and 13 at 8pm.
- The **CHAGRIN FALLS HIGH SCHOOL** is holding its Meet the Teams event on August 14 at 4pm.
- The **2ND ANNUAL CHAMPIONS WEAR RED (KENSTON WRESTLING) GOLF OUTING** takes place at the Tanglewood Club on August 19 from 11am-5pm. Lunch and Dinner are provided. There will be contests, gifts, raffles, and more.
- The **WEST COTTAGE DYE CO.**, located at 58 West Cottage Street, Chagrin Falls, will host live music from Josh Daniel and Alex Zinni on August 20 from 12-5pm. There will be tons of New Tie Dye designs in all sizes.
- The **CHAGRIN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Golf Outing 2022** takes place August 25 from 10am-5pm at the Tanglewood Club.
- **HEINEN'S CHAGRIN FALLS** will present live music with Erin Neal Trio on August 26 from 5:30-8pm.
- The **GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR (200TH BICENTENNIAL)** takes place August 31 to September 5 at the Geauga County Fairgrounds in Burton. See geaugafair.com.
- The **CHAGRIN VALLEY LITTLE THEATRE** is holding its annual fundraiser, Murder By the Falls, on Sept 9 and 10. "This year's play is the world premiere of Murder, Center Stage - adapted by writer Bob Abelman from his novella of the same name."
- **RESCUE VILLAGE'S 29TH ANNUAL WOOFSTOCK DOG FESTIVAL** takes place September 11 from 10am-4pm at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field in Moreland Hills. This is "a fundraising dog walk & parade around the Polo Field followed by a Ramble party." See <https://www.rescuevillage.org/woofstock/>.
- The **CHAGRIN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** is having its 2022 Community Open House and Job Fair on Sep 11 from 10am-4pm at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field in Moreland Hills. Explore several different job opportunities. Some Chamber members will have hiring managers onsite to conduct interviews.
- The **CHAGRIN VALLEY LITTLE THEATRE** will present *Dracula* by Steven Dietz from September 16 to October 1 (Friday and Saturdays at 8pm, Sunday September 25 at 2pm).

WOOFSTOCK: A FESTIVAL OF PEOPLE AND PAWS TO SAVE ANIMALS

By Gail Vannelli, Contributing Writer

Walt Whitman said, "This is what you should do: Love the earth and the sun and the animals."

Rescue Village, a humane animal shelter in Russell Township, is certainly a place that loves animals. Executive Director Ken Clarke describes its mission as "providing humane solutions for animals and their people." Whether the village's arrivals are surrendered, lost, abandoned, or homeless, they receive the care and affection they require when they enter the door.

But it's a revolving door that never stops moving because of the alarming number of animals that need rescued. According to Best Friends Animal Society, in 2021, almost 113,000 dogs and cats were saved in Ohio. Rescue Village's 2021 Impact Report shows 1,486 adoptions. But, says Best Friends, there are more animals that need saving.

During Rescue Village's 48-plus operating years, it has risen to this challenge through expansion. Its current campus consists of a 19,000-square foot space that includes a full-service veterinary clinic, an unlimited stay shelter, a community room for education and training, an onsite barn and barnyard, and walking trails

surrounding the 14-acre property to exercise the animals. Rescue Village also helps compassionately manage the free-roaming cat population with its Trap-Neuter-Return program.

The organization depends primarily on fundraising to provide these vital animal welfare services. Every year since 1993, it has hosted a dog-and family-friendly fundraising event, which has continually grown to help support the increased services. The first "Walk for Animals - Put Your Best Paw Forward" was held at the Chagrin Falls High School. The fundraiser morphed into a "walk plus entertainment" event called "The Ramble and Four-Footed Festival." Then in 2006, the ramble/festival was officially dubbed Woofstock.

Woofstock is now Northeast Ohio's biggest dog and family festival, drawing recent crowds of about 3,500 people and 2,000 dogs. Clarke cheerfully described how attendees "look at legs and dogs all day" as they gaze down at the variety of prancing, parading breeds.



Taking place September 11 from 10am-4pm at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field, Woofstock 2022 kicks off with a dog walk and parade around the field, followed by a "Ramble Party." There'll be "a costume contest, paw-stompin' music, vendors, food trucks, dog games, lure courses, kids activities, and more!" The fun and frolic will help generate the means for giving suffering animals what they most need: love.

Dog walkers can download the Ramble Registration/Pledge Form to help raise funds at www.woofstock.fun.