

News from the Ludington Area Arts Council

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Celebrate Four Days of Sweet Summer Art, Music, and Fun July 21-24 in Ludington

Ludington MI: The 1st Annual Sweet Summer Celebration kicks off on Wednesday, July 21 with a concert at Epworth Heights featuring Concert Rock Violinist Aaron Meyer and guitarist, Tim Ellis, and ends on Saturday, July 24 with a Sweet Summer Beach Party Beer Tent with entertainment by Grand Rapids-based, rock band, Brena.

In between, there will be lots of activities including a sandcastle-making contest, beach party, variety talent show, ice cream social, kids' music program, lighthouse tours, and performances by various bands. The new, multi-day celebration is designed to offer something for locals and visitors alike with a mix of entertainment and activities for all ages. The current schedule of activities is as follows:

Wednesday, July 21-Saturday, July 24

- **12-5:30 p.m.** – Sweet Summer Art Exhibition. Runs the month of July.

Wednesday, July 21

- **7:30 p.m.** - Concert rock violinist, Aaron Meyer and guitarist, Tim Ellis in concert at Epworth Heights

Thursday, July 22

- **Noon - 4 p.m.** - Free music program for kids with Aaron Meyer & Tim Ellis.
- **10 a.m.-5 p.m.** - Free tours of North Breakwater Lighthouse
- **7 p.m.** - Variety Talent Show, followed by ice cream social.

Friday, July 23

- **Noon - 4 p.m.** - Free music program for kids with Aaron Meyer & Tim Ellis.
- **6-9 p.m.** - Friday Night Live: *First Curve* Band & the Budweiser Beer Tent

Saturday, July 24

- **8 - 11:30 a.m.** -Sandcastle Contest at Stearns Park
- **4-6 p.m.** - Angela Williams, reading and book signing: *With A Cherry on Top*
- **6-9 p.m.** - Sweet Summer Beach Party with Brena and the Miller Beer Tent

The impetus for the Sweet Summer Celebration came from Bob Neal of House of Flavors and Jim Reynolds, president of Gray & Co., the world's largest supplier of maraschino cherries.

"I was an early supporter of the Center for the Arts," explains Neal. "And, I am delighted to do what I can to bring opportunities to the Center that the whole community can benefit from. Having a thriving downtown that includes a Center for the Arts and other cultural institutions such as the library, Sandcastles Childrens Museum, and the Maritime Museum that is in development combine with Ludington's surrounding natural wonders to create an unbeatable destination and place to live."

"We're excited that Bob and Jim have given us the seed money to create what we will hope will be an annual festival of arts and culture that will get bigger and bigger and involve more and more community organizations and talent," said Terry Murphy, executive director of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. "We are also grateful for all the partners who have stepped forward to create this new multi-day festival to benefit the Center."

The multi-day celebration is being organized by the Ludington Area Center for the Arts, The Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, the City of Ludington, House of Flavors, and Kari Karr Design/Marketing. Other organizations are involved in specific events including Epworth Heights Association, the Sable Points Lighthouse Association and Sandcastles Childrens Museum.

For more information about the Sweet Summer Celebration, check out www.sweetludington.com or call the Ludington Area Center for the Arts at 231-845-2787.

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