

**Canal Days Celebrates 40 Years**  
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Fairport Canal Days is right around the corner and it's kicking off the 2016 festival by celebrating 40 years! Starting as a sidewalk sale in 1976, Canal Days has grown into the magnificent festival we know today, bringing an impressive variety of food, music and art to our village.

This year the festival will be held June 3rd-5th. Both Saturday and Sunday the festival will open at 10:00 am, closing Saturday at 6:00 pm and Sunday at 5:00 pm.

Fairport Canal Days as a whole is planned and sponsored by the Fairport Merchant Association (FPMA), a non-profit organization of retail merchants and other business owners from the Village of Fairport, Town of Perinton, and Bushnell's Basin. Sponsoring many other events that take place here in Fairport, the main focus of the FPMA is to promote local commerce.

Canal Days will start with a chicken BBQ, held on June 3rd from 4:30-9:00 pm at the Fairport Junction. The night will be accompanied by music with Spotlight Studios House Band opening for Allegro. There is no admission fee for this event and food vendors within the Junction will remain open at this time.

Another evening event that takes place during Canal Days is Canal Nights which occurs on Saturday, also at Fairport Junction. Similar to the Chicken BBQ, food vendors will remain open during this time and there will be music throughout the night. With only a \$5 admission fee, performances will start at 7:00 p.m. and carry on until 11:00 that night. Chet Catallo and the Cats will be opening for the Tommy Brunett Band that evening and many other guest musicians will be performing with each band throughout the night.

Yet, while it's fun to come out at night to listen to some local talent, what Canal Days is most known for is what happens throughout the day. The assorted food, music, and arts that can be found throughout the streets of the Village are what brings that unique feeling that can only be described with a mouthful of kettle corn and a handful of shopping bags.

One crucial part of Canal Days is the food and this year there is a fantastic line-up! With some returning favorites as well as new vendors, there are so many different options I can undoubtedly say that there will be something for everyone. Some vendors that will be seen lining the streets this year include 58 Smokin' BBQ, Big Al's Empanadas, Effortlessly Healthy, Island Wraps, Macarollin' and many more festival favorites.

Another key aspect of the festival is the artisans that border the streets. With over 200 participants coming from a variety of states, onlookers will be amazed at the different skills and talents of each vendor. Cordell Cordaro, Firefly Henna, Earl Jacobson Potter, Kiwi's Collars, 32 Degrees Hats, Phenomenal Fudge, Guglielmo Sauce, Robyn's Garden, and Drake Hill Woodworking are just a few vendors who you can be on the lookout for this year.

There are also many merchants who participate in the festival including RV&E Bike and Skate, Jardin Terrariums, Embroidery Loft, Spotlight Studios, Red Bird Market, as well as many more. Here, local shop owners have the opportunity to showcase their stores and the unique products that they offer.

A final feature of Canal Days that enhances the festival is the wide variety of music that people can experience during the weekend. This year there are five stages on which musicians will be performing; these are Fairport Junction, Kennelley Gazebo, Village Hall, and the Fairport Brewing Company, as well as family friendly entertainment at the YMCA Kidzone stage. With so much local talent, it isn't hard to find performers who will make this Canal Days even better than the last. Just a few of the many incredible musicians lined up to play this year include Bill Tiberio Band, Dobbin/Mancini/Pullara Trio, the Crooked North, and Heather Taylor.

The food, music, and artisans lined up for this year will make for an unforgettable weekend. An added bonus is the Canal Days Shuttle which starts running at 9:30 am Saturday and Sunday, picking groups up every fifteen minutes. Parking/pick up will be at Minerva DeLand and will cost \$2 for those above 12. The money made through the shuttle and during the festival as a whole is donated to local charities like Fairport-Perinton Dollars for Scholars and the Perinton Food Shelf to name a couple.

I encourage everyone to attend the festival as it is a lot of fun and so much hard work is put into it by volunteers, artisans, vendors, etc. For more information on times and details of this event, visit the Canal Days webpage, <http://www.fairportcanaldays.com>.