



# | Village of Williamsville |

Office of Community Development

Contact: Keaton T. DePriest

Phone: 716-256-1225 (office) 716-512-8384 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Annual garden walk, art festival move to virtual format to allow for social distancing measures

### Village details events, amenities affected amid COVID-19 pandemic

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY (May 18, 2020) – As the spring and summer festival season approaches, organizers of numerous events that are annually held in the Village of Williamsville are discussing the possibility of either cancellations, postponements, or implementing revised plans for this year’s celebrations.

Adjustments to area events are being initiated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to prevent the spread of the disease through safe social distancing measures.

Garden Walk Williamsville – which is held annually on the third Saturday in July – will not host an in-person event. Instead, organizers will debut a virtual format, providing people with the ability to submit and view social media videos and photographs that will spotlight residential and municipal gardens.

“In an effort to bring the beauty of all gardens to the public, our volunteer committee wants you to share your photos and videos of your own gardens, no matter if you live in the village or not,” the village’s Garden Walk Committee organizers said in a statement.

Further information about the garden walk is available at [www.WalkableWilliamsville.com](http://www.WalkableWilliamsville.com).

Also switching to a virtual format is the Glen Park Art Festival, which was set for the last Saturday and Sunday in July. The in-person festival, which draws thousands of people to Glen Avenue in the village, will not be held this year.

The festival committee will be working with artists and vendors to create a virtual art show by posting links to purchase their works. All of the information will be posted on the Glen Park Art Festival web site by the end of June.

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While committee organizers may be amending the 2020 event, they are also looking forward to next year's show.

"Planning for our 2021 festival has already begun," said Connie Haney, co-chair of the festival. "Applications for 2021 will be online in January."

The Glen Park Art Festival Committee is overseen by the Village Preservation Foundation, which manages the annual festival. Members of the GPAF committee assist the foundation in hosting the festival.

For more information, visit [www.GlenParkArtFest.com](http://www.GlenParkArtFest.com).

### Garrison Park pool will not open due to pandemic

In an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Village Board during its meeting on April 27 approved not opening the pool at Garrison Park for the 2020 season. The decision was made following a majority of the board agreeing that social distancing guidelines would be difficult to implement at the pool.

All village parks will be open during the summer months.

"Now more than ever, in the midst of a national pandemic, our parks play an integral role in the quality of life for our residents by providing a natural resource for everyone to get fresh air and exercise, both essential elements for mental and physical well-being," said Mayor Deb Rogers.

Village officials stress the use of face coverings and social distancing efforts when applicable. A list of social distancing reminders and Centers for Disease Control guidelines are available on the homepage of [www.WalkableWilliamsville.com](http://www.WalkableWilliamsville.com).

### Other events, activities held within the village

The following are updates regarding events that are not hosted by the municipality, but do occur within the village limits:

- **Memorial Day parade:** The parade, annually held on Memorial Day along Main Street in the Village of Williamsville, has been canceled. The event is coordinated by members of George F. Lamm Post 622.
- **Farmers market:** The Williamsville Farmers Market is scheduled to begin Saturday, June 6. The market will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot next to the Amherst Municipal Building, 5583 Main St. New rules will be in effect to guide social distancing efforts. For more information, go to [www.WilliamsvilleFarmersMarket.com](http://www.WilliamsvilleFarmersMarket.com) or visit its Facebook page.

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- **Strawberry Festival:** The Rotary Club of Williamsville earlier this month announced the cancelation of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Strawberry Festival, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, at Island Park. Club members are focusing efforts on next year's festival, set for Wednesday, June 16, 2021.
- **Old Home Days:** The Jolly Boys of Williamsville will soon be making a decision on the status of its annual Old Home Days festival, which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, through Saturday, July 17, at Island Park. Visit [www.OldHomeDaysWilliamsville.com](http://www.OldHomeDaysWilliamsville.com) for more information.
- **Music on Main:** A decision on the status of Music on Main will be made soon. The weekly series – coordinated and hosted by the Williamsville Business Association – is scheduled to be held Thursday evenings from June through August.

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