



TomatoFest Moves Downtown! September 9 & 10

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Over 50 Performance Provide Family Fun for All!

For Immediate Release (August 29, 2016): This year's TomatoFest kick-off party begins on Friday night, September 9th at 7PM in the State Street Band Shell in downtown Auburn. Ithaca-based reggae band Mosaic Foundation will play in the Shell from 7-10PM, sponsored by the City of Auburn & Downtown Auburn BID. TomatoFest kick-off music offerings also expand inside at a wide range of downtown bars & restaurants Friday night including Moro's Table, Prison City Pub & Brewery, Moondog's Lounge, Osteria Salina and A.T. Walley's with performance times from 7PM – Midnight.

In addition, Friday night hands-on family activities will be offered at Seymour Public Library from 6 – 8PM, and a showing of the movie Zootopia; and on Saturday, take part in more hands-on crafts and check out the GameTruck CNY mobile video theater that will be parked on location from 10AM – 4PM. As another stop, the Knights of Columbus will host a special pasta dinner on Friday from 5 - 8PM and on Saturday from 1 - 6PM, to benefit the food pantries.

Friday night's music performances are supported in part by a NYSCA's Decentralization Program, administered locally by Finger Lakes Community Arts Grants (FLACAG). Plus, the Downtown Auburn Business Improvement District (BID), Auburn Public Theater (APT) and the City of Auburn have also helped make this festival bigger & better than ever at its new location downtown.

WHERE:

State Street Band Shell
Exchange Street Plaza
Auburn Public Theater
Genesee Center
Knights of Columbus
Seymour Library
Moro's Table
Prison City Pub & Brewery
Moondog's Lounge
Osteria Salina
A.T. Walley's

Gilda Brower, Chair of the 2016 TomatoFest Board said, "This year, thanks to the City of Auburn and Downtown Auburn BID, we are starting TomatoFest on Friday evening, with the reggae sounds of Mosaic Foundation in the State Street Band Shell, and the rain location at Moondog's Lounge. We are so excited to be downtown and to add to our base of event partners, supporters & sponsors."

On Saturday, there are over 50 free performances planned for TomatoFest, plus a very special ticketed benefit concert on Saturday night at APT at 8PM featuring Rory Block and Professor Louie and the Crowmatix and the Rock of Ages Brass Section. Saturday's activity is supported in part by the Senator John DeFrancisco Arts Grant in Cayuga County Program. Performance tickets are available for purchase at Auburn Public Theater.

From 11AM - 8:30PM on Saturday, there will be 25 musicians playing acoustically in 4 different locations on Genesee Street, mixed in among 30 craft & food vendors. Plus music on the showmobile stage on Exchange Street Plaza, inside the Genesee Center, under the State Street Band Shell and inside on both stages at Auburn Public Theater.

Genesee Center will be filled with non-profit booths & lots of family fun activities including face painting, Bubbles, Juggles & Mime, play dough making, a special children's Tomato Parade and the famous cake cutting by Wegmans to add to the fun. Plus dance demonstrations at APT Dance Studio and Reptile Rescue & puppet shows will be offered on APT Stage Right.

TomatoFest bands & performers include: Katy Cholette; Brad Beardsley; Molto Bene; Guac; Mark Doyle & the Maniacs; Karl Strickland; Corey Bruse; Justin Adams; Nuclear Ukulele; Perennials; Khai French; Tom Weaver; Like Mock; Brian Blowers; Mike Shaw; Zoey & Lydia; Connor Vaneps; Dan Vitale; Salvatore Vitale; Never Too Late; Gregg Hoover; Bob Lyna; Drake Butler; Dan Cleveland; Chris Blessing; Wayne & Marilyn Fuller; Uke Nuts; Cliff Diver; Alix Reynolds; Perform4Purpose All Stars; Generation Gap; Mixtape; Julie Howard & Friends; Free Range Children; Have You Heard; Buddy Barrett Blues; Dawn Jordan String Theater; Erie Cloggers; Tiffany's School of Dance; Dancemore & more!

TomatoFest artists & food vendors include: Barbara & LaRue Austin, Ruebarb Alpacas; Lisa Anchini, Jazzy's Gifts; Starr Andrews, Welding/Metal Crafts; Uli Ethridge, Jewelry; Lisa & Lori Gnau, 2 Fraus Gnau, Stone Jewelry; Emily Harding, Daisy Hollow Farm, Handmade Soaps; Tracey Loomis, Jewelry; Elizabeth Moore, Doll Fashions by Elizabeth; Mark Thrasher, Basket Weaver; Ted Tilton, Wood Carver; Linda Yager, Gia's Gifts, Jewelry & Knit Items; Jeff & Irene Kulis, Twilight Alpacas; James Hotaling, Smokey Hollow Maple Syrup; LakeLand Winery; Thousand Island Winery; Jammin with Pat, Homemade Jams; Haines Apiary, Local Honey; Linda Eldred, Strawberry Fields Hydroponic Strawberries; Sarah Crossgrove, Pampered Chef; Alex Amos, Home Improvement; Bethany Briddick, USBORNE Books; Mona Sage-Cardinale, Toby's Treasure's; Jason Evans, Oils/Scents; Kelly LaSalle, Scentsy; Ryan Lockwood, Farmers' Insurance; Kevin McCullough, Bath Fitters; James Martinez, LeafFilter; Victoria Pocino, LuLaRoe Fashion; Eric Roberts, Halcp Energy; Rachael Morrison and CNY Solar; and Keith Ryan, KR Communications - Direct TV.

TomatoFest concession vendors include: Barlow's Concessions serving fried dough, funnel cakes, lemonade, smoothies, snow cones, corn dogs, fries & chicken tenders; BSA Troop 21 serving hot dogs, & juice boxes; Cayuga Lake Creamery serving tomato ice cream; Hungry Hatties serving steak & chicken wraps, pickles, mac bites, onion peddles, & jalapeno poppers; Michael Fountain serving gourmet egg rolls, tomato basil pizza, buffalo chicken, bacon mac & cheese bites, POBoy sandwiches, lettuce Wraps & poutine fries; Orofino's serving eggplant

parm, summer pasta, chicken gizzards, tomato pie, focaccia bread, meatballs & Bloody Mary mix; and Wolf's Patio wood-fired pizza.

If that isn't enough reason to come downtown, also on Saturday on State Street, Prison City Pub & Brewery is hosting & toasting a 5K BrewRun Series from 3 - 7PM. Come enjoy a special release beer, food vending, awards, DJ music, plus a live performance by the Jess Novak Band from 4 – 7PM.

Proceeds from TomatoFest continue to support the food pantries in Cayuga County, as they have for their 31-year history of the festival. For more information about the event, or the mission, please visit: <http://www.cnytomatofest.org/>.

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