

It's Fair'ly Important News from the Fair Office



September 25, 2014
214 E. Center St., Suite 11 ♦ Ithaca, Michigan 48847
989.875.5292 ♦ www.gcffy.org ♦ info@gcffy.org
Fair location: 701 S. Lincoln Ave., Alma, MI 48801

GCCFFY Signs Carnival Contract with Local Company



Gratiot County Fair for Youth signed a three year contract with Maple Leaf Amusements. Maple Leaf is a local company who calls Breckenridge home. Erin Fitzgerald, who co-owns the company with her husband John, is a alumna of Breckenridge High School. Erin is from the Nagel family which is famous for providing outstanding, clean fair food wagons which will satisfy fair goers cravings for handmade lemonade, elephant ears, pizza, french fries, cotton candy, caramel apples, corn

dogs, deep fried Oreos and of course Nagel polish sausage. The amusement company currently has 15 rides and plans to add at least two additional rides this winter.

"John and Erin [Fitzgerald] have already been over to scope out the fairgrounds and have some exciting ideas of how to set up our midway," states Becky Hirschman, GCCFFY Board President, "I am excited to see Maple Leaf Amusements at the fair and look forward to introducing them to our visitors next summer." Hirschman reported she and other board members went to see Maple Leaf's rides in Greenville earlier this summer and were impressed with their workers and the condition of their rides. The company's rides include such staples as the Ferris Wheel, Sizzler, Tilt-A-Whirl, Fun House and swing. The Fitzgeralds plan to bring a variety of rides to appeal to all ages and sizes.

Another exciting addition this year will be that families will be able to pre-purchase an unlimited daily ride ticket for just \$8. Maple Leaf Amusements will also be giving away a free used car to someone who purchases a wristband throughout the week. GCCFFY is excited to work with Maple Leaf Amusements and proud to welcome them to their hometown fair.

GCCFFY Sets Fair Dates

Along with signing a three-year carnival contract, GCCFFY also confirmed our fair dates for the 2015 – 2017 years. This will help exhibitors and families plan their summer schedules. The dates will be:

- July 25 – August 1, 2015
- July 30 – August 6, 2016
- July 29 – August 5, 2017

We now know what will be the BEST week of the year!!!



Grant from Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee Helps GCFY Become Greener

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Gratiot County Fair for Youth was able to utilize many soy based products. Perhaps you saw one of the many signs around the grounds informing about the soy products used this year. But in case you did not, GCFY used soy biodiesel to fuel our tractors, soy paint to paint the cafeteria and inside our barns, soy ink to print our fairbooks and brochures, and even soy based stain to coat the deck surrounding the Vanderbeek Fair Office. Even when you pumped soap on your hands you were supporting soy based products and helping us protect the environment.



Dan Rossman & the Fields Golf Course Receive Appreciation Awards



Annually, Gratiot County Fair for Youth presents an individual and a business with the fair's prestigious Appreciation Award. The Appreciation Award is the highest award the fair presents and it recognizes outstanding commitment to the fair.

Dan Rossman who recently retired after 34 years with MSU Extension is the recipient of this year's Individual Appreciation Award. In his role with MSU Extension, Dan has always strived to facilitate a great collaborative relationship with the fair even providing the fair a home within the MSU Extension Office.

"Dan has been a great friend to the fair for many years," states Brian Gardner, Fair Coordinator. "He has humbly helped us in many ways and I expect he will continue to be a good friend to the fair for years to come." At the fair, Dan has ran GCFY's Crop & Weed ID Contest and helped to put the fun into the Ag Olympics. Over the years, Dan has spent countless hours helping out the fair in numerous different capacities. The fair recognizes Dan's incredible service to the fair and Gratiot County.

Receiving the Business Appreciation Award is the **Fields Golf Course** in Ithaca. John & Amy Crumbaugh purchased the course in 2010 and transformed it into an outstanding course in mid-Michigan. The Fields which is managed by Noah Moomey has hosted GCFY's golf outing for the past three years.



"The Fields do everything but hit the ball for us to ensure everyone has a good time," states Gardner. "The Fields and also John & Amy Crumbaugh was a natural choice. They are great friends to the fair in many ways" Additionally, the Fields have sponsored the Rodeo, donated to the fair, and purchased many sale items. The Fair recognizes John & Amy and all of the staff at the Fields for their commitment and dedication to the fair.

[A complete list of past GCFY Appreciation Award Recipients is available here.](#)

Fair Donors Complete GCFY's Funding Equation



Every year countless donors help to fulfill GCFY's funding equation. Our annual fundraising campaign is set up around "sponsoring" our fair class trophies. Each donor who gives to the fair not only allows us to provide trophies and recognition, it helps us maintain our facilities, administer the programs we offer and remain sustainable as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations are critical for the annual success of the fair and for special

projects such as funding the construction of the Vanderbeek Fair Office, the Feeder Barn and the renovation of the North Horse Barn. Let's give a big GCFY thank you to each and every donor who made this a successful year. [Click here for a list of 2014 donors.](#)

This fall, GCFY will again ask this generous community to support the fair's programs and facilities. The fair will have a lot of work to do with all of the changes happening next door at the Armory and we want to continue to provide our exhibitors with a first rate fair experience. For more information on how you can become a GCFY donor, contact the Fair Office at 989-875-5292.

Fair Exhibitor Survey

GCFY constantly wants to improve how the fair operates. To help us make our great fair even better we are asking exhibitors and families to take a few moments to complete an online survey. The survey is found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PPVHH5S>. Alternately, if you would like to just pick up the phone and chat, please feel free to contact Brian Gardner at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.

GCFY Total Sales top \$700,000



Local businesses, farmers, families and relatives signed up to support Gratiot County Fair for Youth exhibitors at the fair's local sales. The sales exceeded \$700,000 in income for the first time in GCFY's history showing an increase of 8.8% over 2013 and 106.8% since 2006. Increases in sale revenue are indicative of market prices and increased community support. GCFY thanks each sale buyer who came to the fair and bid on animals and still exhibits.

- [Click for a list of all Sale Buyers](#)
 - [Click to review the sales by species](#)
 - [Click for a list of sale totals since 2006](#)
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Armory Renovations

As we have talked about for the last year, the Alma Armory has broken ground on their new building project. Over the last year, GCFY and National Guard leadership have met to work out the best possible solution for both sides. While we

are not 100% sure of the final impact we will lose access to around ten to fifteen campsites on the east side of the camping area. The board will be discussing our options if the sites can be relocated and if so where. The board will also be discussing how to make the move for the impacted campers as smooth as possible. Additionally the board will be discussing how to transform the wheat field just south of the Armory into the best use for the fair.

GCFY Seeks Board Members

Gratiot County Fair for Youth will hold its annual board meeting on Thursday, December 4. At this meeting, the board will elect four members to its Board of Directors and will appoint a new Teen Representative. The fair board typically meets the first Thursday of the month at the fair office in Alma. At the meeting, the board sets policies, reviews financial reports and provides direction and oversight of the fair. Individual directors will be called upon to attend and actively participate in meetings, help maintain and improve fairgrounds during clean up events and serve on committees as assigned by the board president. Additionally during the week of the fair board members are asked to be accessible for meetings, help set up and take down events and serve one assigned day as the formal Day Chair. If you have any questions, please contact the fair office at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.



[Anyone interested in running for the board can find a nomination form by clicking here.](#)

GCFY Is Searching for New Teen Representative

At the fair's Annual Meeting of its membership on Thursday, December 4, the board will appoint a new Teen Representative to serve as a full voting member on the fair's Board of Directors. The new member will serve a two year term on the board. GCFY is committed to being a youth fair and having teen members on its board will help to ensure the board maintains that vision. Teen Representatives are often asked for their opinion on items being discussed by the board and their opinion is always welcome and appreciated.

[Anyone interested in applying to be a Teen Representative for the board will find an application here.](#)

GCFY Annual Meeting

The next Gratiot County Fair for Youth Annual Membership Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014. The location is tentatively set to be the Gratiot Isabella RESD Building in Ithaca. At this meeting GCFY will elect four positions on the Board of Directors, appoint a new Teen Representative to serve on the board and enact any possible by-law changes. The fair will also present its annual report to the community with information on fair participation, financial reports, and updates on what projects were accomplished and what will be planned for the following year. This meeting is open to the public and GCFY's community is encouraged to come and support the great programs that happen at the fair.

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Gratiot County Fair for Youth
214 E. Center St., Suite 11
Ithaca, MI 48847
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