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# Little World's Fair

August 19th - 21st

Grahamsville Fairgrounds,  
Route 55, Grahamsville

## FEATURING:

- Amusement Park Rides
- Family Events
- Music & Entertainment
- Food & Drink
- 4-H Exhibits
- Games
- Contests & Races

AND MORE

A special section of the  
SULLIVAN COUNTY  
**Democrat**

August 12, 2022 • Section L

# Little World's Fair entering 142nd chapter

BY MATT FESTA



JOSEPH ABRAHAM | DEMOCRAT

The excitement is evident as these young people go for a spin.

## Little World's Fair

*'Celebrating 135 years of Country Fun'*

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This year's Grahamsville Little World's Fair is slated to take place from August 19-21. Thanks to the Neversink Agricultural Society (NAS), this is the 142nd year they will be hosting the oldest fair in New York State. These are the officers that you will see walking around, making sure everything goes as smoothly as possible: President - Lawrence Bracken; Vice President - John Garigliano; Secretary - Ann Bivins; Treasurer - Nicole Gorr; and General Superintendent - Jessica Doyle.

Follow the Grahamsville Little World's Fair Facebook page for updates on events, and see the process behind how they manage to hold this historic event every year.

Go to [grahamsvillefair.com](http://grahamsvillefair.com) to learn more about this year's offerings as well. They offer a brochure, where you can take another look at what times these events are going to be held.

In the meantime, here's a summary of what's on the docket ...

**Everyday**

Rides are open at noon, accessi-

ble by buying tickets, or a bracelet for an all day pass that's \$22 on Friday and Sunday, and \$25 on Saturday. Of course, your classic fair food, as well as hand-crafted art and trinkets will be sold at every corner of the fairgrounds. One corner will also be dedicated to the 4H program showing their animals to the public. Held in the Livestock Building at all hours of the day, their owners will always be open for questions and comments.

Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show will be coordinated multiple times

a day at the main stage in between the musical entertainment, as well as Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza. It will take place twice a day in the same area.

**Friday, August 19**

The majority of open live-stock showings will be presented on this day, including horse, swine, poultry, goat, and alpaca.

During the showings, they will also have officers of the group host an event called "Tell Me About It!"

continued on next page

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

They will summarize what 4H is, and answer any questions people have about their organization. While that's happening, the main stage will have Shane Rennison performing his laid-back acoustic style songs in the mid-afternoon, and Far Beyond Gone picking up the tempo with their hard-rock approach in the late afternoon.

As you're enjoying these events, you can find the official opening ceremony of the 142nd Little World's Fair taking place at 6:30 p.m., at the Secretary's booth. You will see it along the midway road, just behind the main stage.

**Saturday, August 20**

To start the day off, the 4H association will have an Equine Fun Show, where the program's most performative horses and their owners show the work they've put in the last year. Then the open dairy showings will take place as the Fire Department Building hosts the children's scavenger hunt. The hunt starts at 10 a.m.,

and winners will be announced at 5 p.m.

After that starts up, the NAS directors had the incredibly gener-

ous idea to hold a sensory hour for people that want to go on the rides, but have too many audio-visual sensitivities due to all the

lights. The ride operators will shut off all the lights, and all people with these special needs will be able to ride as much as they want from 11 a.m., to general admission at noon. Between then, the famous Watermelon Eating Contest will take place, as well as the Lumberjack Show.

Throughout the rest of the day Shane Rennison will play again, as well as The Other Band, and around dusk, Hillbilly Parade. They will preface the annual fireworks display at 9:30 p.m.

**Sunday, August 21**

Sunday will have the shortest hours of operation, with events such as the open rabbit show, beef show, and horseshoe tournament between 9-10 a.m.

Jesse Noran, and later, Lost Angeles will be heard playing their music along with the cheers of the draft horse pull and classic car show. Everything will start dying down around 6 p.m., so get there while you can.



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The current faces of the Neversink Agricultural Society, who are continuing the Little World Fair's 142-year tradition.

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# The Little World's Fair's Humble History

BY MATT FESTA

Starting August 19, and continuing through the rest of the weekend, the Neversink Agricultural Society (NAS) will host the Little World's Fair for the 142nd year. As the longest running festival in New York State, both the NAS and the fair's history highlights a glimpse into the rituals, and overall lifestyle of this county.

The fair has come an incredibly long way since it was first held in 1878, where only 425 people attended, and the only rides were a makeshift merry-go-round, and ferris-wheel. Nowadays, the NAS will get ready for over 10,000 people a day, with live entertainment, rides spanning the entire Grahamsville Fairgrounds, and the agricultural showcasings and competitions it has always been known for.

When it was first conceived, the Curry, Hall, Sheeley, and Slater families, who still reside in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A painting of Sullivan locals gathering around the Merry-Go-Round during one of the first Little World's Fairs. As shown from the mountains in the background, it was not held in the Fairgrounds we know today.

area to this day, were the hosts. At the time, the NAS was known as the Farmer's Club of Grahamsville (changed to its current name in 1897), and they had enough pull around Sullivan to charge a 10-cent admission, gathering all the

nearby agriculturalists and locals for a variety of entertaining events, including produce exhibits, and live-stock competitions. It also was not held in the fairgrounds we have today, and eventually had to be moved due to

a constant growth of attendance. The town rented that area at first, and eventually bought it to become the family friendly terrain we have today.

That wasn't the only thing that evolved. There was a time where it was simply called the Grahamsville Fair, but according to John Garigliano, a director of the NAS, the fair's name spawned from an admirably fitting story of a man that was tempted to go to a much larger world's fair in a city. But he instead drove up to the NAS' little town, and enjoyed his time enough to exclaim that he didn't even want to go to the bigger world's fair, because this one had it all.

Though, the fair and this county wouldn't be itself if it wasn't for its enduring heritage. If you are a local of the county, it's almost certain that you have seen the fair's famous black and white poster of a man holding two pigs. That

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The parking lot of a Little World's Fair held in the early-to-mid 20th century. Many of these cars would be shown at the classic car shows we have today.

man's name is Manville Wakefield, the father of another current director. He was a local of the town that lived on Hastings Drive, and became a prominent part of our cultivation.

Of course, if you attend this summer you will still see the classic tug-of-war, watermelon eating contest, and Saturday night fireworks. These have been around for longer than anyone in this county by this point. But the oldest event that has taken place every single year is actually the draft horse pull,

where farmers from all over Sullivan harness up their horses, and compete to see who's horse can pull the most weight for a certain distance.

Over the next few weeks, if you ask locals about the fair, you may hear things like the fact that it's fun, but not overwhelming. You can spend a day there, see everything, and still want to go back for the rest of the weekend. But remember that the longest annual fair in New York could not be itself without its history.

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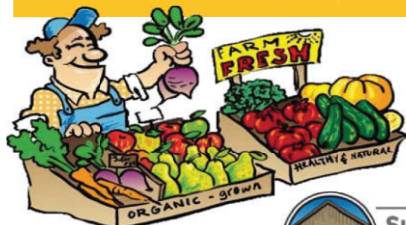
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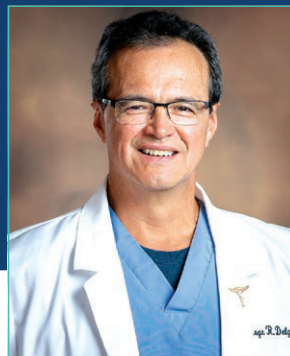
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- ❖ Barryville – 3405 State Route 97
- ❖ Rock Hill – 223 Rock Hill Drive
- ❖ Mamakating – 2948 Route 209
- ❖ Livingston Manor – Main Street
- ❖ Callicoon (Indoor) – 8 Creamery Road
- ❖ Callicoon (Outdoor) - Callicoon Creek Park
- ❖ Kauneonga Lake – 3594 State Route 55
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# 142nd Grahamsville Little World's Fair

## Thursday, August 18th, 2022

2:00 PM Youth Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship & Judging (Livestock Building)

## Friday, August 19th, 2022

9:00 AM Open Horse Show (Main Ring)  
 10:00 AM Youth Swine Show (Upper Ring)  
 NOON Rides Open - General Admission  
 1:00 PM Youth Poultry, Showmanship & Egg Judging (Livestock Building)  
 2:00 PM 4-H Cloverbud - Tell Me About It! (Youth Building)  
 2:00 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 3:00 PM Youth and Open Sheep Show (Upper Ring)  
 3:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)  
 4:00 PM Youth and Open Goat Show (Upper Ring)  
 4:00 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 4:00 PM - Live Music with Shane Rennison (Beer Garden)  
 6:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)

5:00 PM Youth Alpaca Show (Livestock Building)  
 6:00 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 6:30 PM Opening Ceremony for the 142nd Grahamsville Little World's Fair (Secretary's Booth)  
 7:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)  
 7:00 PM - Live Music with Far Beyond Gone (Main Stage)  
 10:00 PM

## Saturday, August 20th, 2022

8:30 AM - 4-H Equine Fun Show  
 11:30 AM  
 10:00 AM Youth and Open Dairy Show  
 10:00 AM - Children's Scavenger Hunt (Fire Dept. Building)  
 4:00 PM Winners announced at 5 PM  
 11:00 AM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 11:00 AM Rides Open - Sensory Friendly Hour  
 11:30 AM Watermelon Eating Contest (Main Stage)  
 NOON Rides Open - General Admission  
 NOON Lumberjack Show (Main Ring)  
 12:30 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 1:00 PM - Live Music with Shane Rennison (Beer Garden)  
 2:00 PM

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL



## Tractor Show & Swap Meet

The Grahamsville Rod & Gun Club  
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Saturday & Sunday  
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# 2022 Youth & Entertainment Schedule

2:00 PM - Live Music with The Other Band (Main Stage)  
 5:00 PM  
 3:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)  
 5:00 PM - Live Music with Shane Rennison (Beer Garden)  
 8:00 PM  
 5:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)  
 5:30 PM Bessie Bingo (Main Ring)  
 6:00 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 7:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)  
 8:00 PM - Live Music with Hillbilly Parade (Main Stage)  
 11:00 PM  
 9:30 PM Spectacular Fireworks Display

NOON - Classic Car Show (Lower Parking Lot)  
 4:00 PM  
 12:30 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 1:00 PM 4-H Ag Auction (Upper Ring)  
 1:30 PM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 2:00 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)  
 3:00 PM - Live Music with Lost Angeles (Main Stage)  
 6:00 PM  
 4:30 PM Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show (Pig Race Ring)

## Sunday, August 21st, 2022

9:00 AM Open Rabbit Show (Livestock Building)  
 9:30 AM Youth and Open Beef Show (Upper Ring)  
 10:00 AM Horseshoe Tournament (Horseshoe Pits)  
 11:00 AM Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza (Main Stage)  
 NOON Rides Open - General Admission  
 NOON Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pig Show  
 NOON - Live Music with Jesse Noren  
 3:00 PM  
 NOON - Draft Horse Pull (Main Ring)  
 4:00 PM

*Wee-Wee-Wee Racing Pigs sponsored by Thunder View Farms*  
*Aerestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza sponsored by Ellenville Regional Hospital*  
*Spectacular Fireworks Show sponsored by Coombe, Bender & Co*  
*Watermelon Eating Contest sponsored by Gilmore's Melons*  
*Children's Scavenger Hunt sponsored by Neversink Parks & Recreation*


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**Livestock and Horse Barn Hours:**  
 Friday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Saturday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sunday: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*See Full Schedule of Events on Pages 8 & 9*

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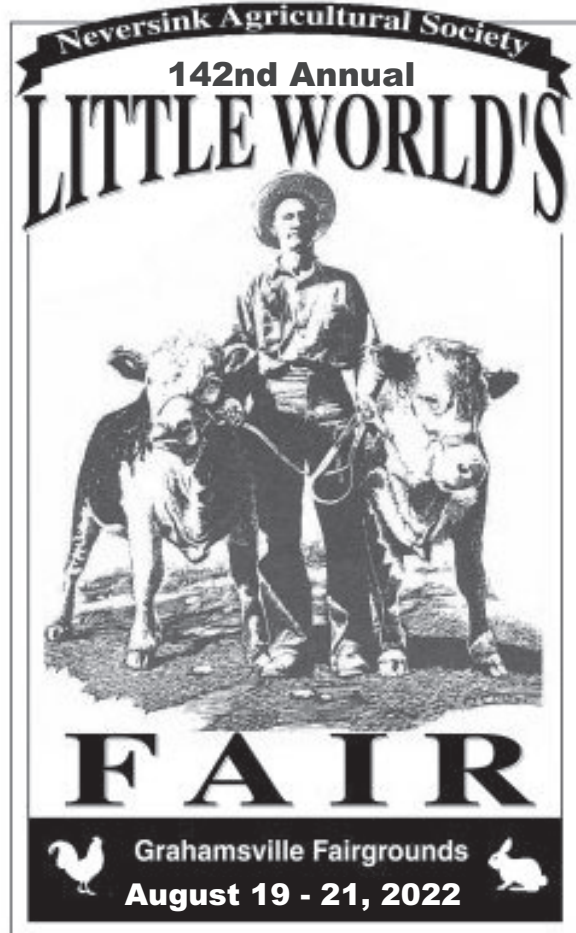
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Mary Chellis, at left, won the kids' division of last year's Little World's Fair Watermelon Eating Contest.



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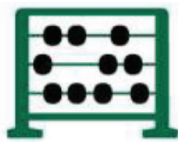


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 There is a longstanding 4-H tradition at the fair. Pictured are members of the Diehl Us In 4-H Club, in front of a few of the club horses.



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