

Winterfest

CELEBRATES
the wonders of winter

By Gretchen Heber | GateHouse Media

The end of the holiday season doesn't have to mean the end of family time and celebration. After Yuletide decorations are stored and New Year's kazooes are tossed away, New Yorkers might want to pack up the kids and head to the Corfu-Pembroke Community Winterfest.



Held at the Pembroke Intermediate School on Jan. 27, this family-oriented festival in Genesee County celebrates winter and small-town life.

“We’ve held the festival for probably about 10 years now. It’s just a fun event for everyone,” said Sandy Thomas, village of Corfu clerk/treasurer. “We get probably a thousand visitors to Winterfest. People from all over the area attend.”

And while visitors will have a good time, they can also do good by bringing canned goods and other nonperishable food items to donate to a local food pantry. Each donation will earn the giver a door prize ticket for any of a number of impressive prizes, such as theme park tickets and autographed items from the Buffalo Bills NFL team and the Buffalo Sabers hockey team.

Numerous local artisans will sell their wares at Winterfest, including needleworkers, jewelers and woodcrafters. “We have one artist who makes beautiful handcrafted knives,” said Thomas. Another vendor sells handmade soaps, lotions and other pampering products. Another will have essential oils on offer.

Corfu-Pembroke historian Al Starkweather will be on hand to enlighten festival attendees about the long and colorful history of Corfu as the 1-square-mile village of 700 residents celebrates its sesquicentennial — 150 years of

IF YOU GO

Corfu & Pembroke Winterfest

Where: Pembroke Intermediate School, 58 Alleghany Road, Corfu

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 27, 2018

Online: bit.ly/2jbwZ7Y

incorporation. Festivalgoers can enjoy musical performances from several area church and school bands, as well as from a community band that Thomas explained features performers of all ages.

After dancing up a hunger to the fabulous music, guests can enjoy a snack or two any of a number of vendors. High Point Community Church will be selling fried dough. The Indian Falls United Methodist Church will have chili and baked goods for sale. A perennial favorite — chicken barbecue — will be available by the Corfu fire department.

“Oooooo — it’s good!” said Thomas of the barbecue, the inclusion of which in a winter event might be explained by the festival’s history.

“We used to have the celebration in the summer,” said Thomas. “But there was so much

competition in the summer to find a date that wasn’t already attached to other events. So we moved it to winter, and everyone’s been thrilled with that!”

A special children’s area will feature carnival games and a magic show, and a balloon artist will be on hand to delight young and old with creative twists of inflated rubber. Children also will likely enjoy the K9 demonstration by a local human police officer and his specially trained canine partner.

Dozens of gift baskets will be raffled off, with proceeds going to an area beautification fund. “We’re always looking to make our community look even better than it already does,” said Thomas.

The baskets are themed and include collections of Mickey Mouse-themed toys and books for children and coffee-themed assortments for adults. “We have a Harley-Davidson-themed basket, too, this year, which is really neat,” said Thomas.

The festival is made possible by funding from the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council, a state-funded organization that supports the arts.

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 27, 2018, at Pembroke Intermediate School, 58 Alleghany Road.