

June turns up the heat in Oldham County

BY HELEN MCKINNEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Summer doesn't sit still in Oldham County. June's lineup blends signature events like Arts on the Green with the experiences Oldham County has become known for. Concerts spill through parks and gardens all month long. Farm tours put visitors face-to-face with Kentucky's horses, bees and working farms. Botanical cocktail classes at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, one of two stops on the Kentucky Garden Trail, turn summer herbs into craft drinks, while bluegrass brunches, walking wine tours, Juneteenth celebrations, splash pads, water adventures, and even an adults-only swimming quarry make it easy to fill an entire weekend.

ARTS TAKE CENTER STAGE

Get your fill of art in Oldham County in June. Savor the summer flavors all around you with Welcome Summer, an art exhibit showcasing all things summer. From the vibrant colors to the summertime subject matter, you'll feel the heat with this exhibit! Hosted by the Arts Association of Oldham County (AAOC) and held at Gallery 104 in La Grange from June 2-20. An opening reception will be held on June 4 at 7 p.m.

AAOC is also hosting Trading Places from June 2-20. This annual exchange art show features AAOC gallery artists and the Shelby Regional Arts Council (SRAC). AAOC artists will be displayed in the Dogwood Gallery located at Wakefield Scarce Gallery in Shelbyville and SRAC artists will be displayed in Gallery 104 in La Grange. Receptions will be held on June 4 at 7 p.m. Gallery 104 for SRAC artwork and on June 11 at 7 p.m. at Dogwood Gallery at Wakefield Scarce Gallery for AAOC artwork.

Happy Birthday USA will be the display on exhibit at AAOC from June 23 to July 18 at Gallery 104. All artwork



Era archive photo

The 26th annual Arts on the Green will be held on Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 14 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at The Maples Park in Crestwood.

will commemorate the history of the United States of America from 1776 to 2026. An opening reception will be held on June 25 at 7 p.m. Admission is free to the gallery and events.

AAOC's big showstopper of the season is Arts on the Green held on June 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 14 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at The Maples Park in Crestwood. This free annual juried arts and crafts fair is in its 26th year, with over 70 artists and thousands of visitors attending. Arts on the Green has become a premier outdoor juried arts and crafts festival designed for the entire family to enjoy.

SUMMER FUN FOR THE KIDS

Plenty of fun abounds for the kiddos while school is out. Tiny tots can enjoy Ernie's Summer Splash Bash on June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 9:30 a.m. - noon at the La Grange Railroad Museum & Learning Center. Cool off and enjoy some free fun every Tuesday with water and sensory activities, scavenger hunts and lawn games, trains and more.

The fun continues with the 8th annual Summer Family Fun Fest and Kid-Owned Business Expo on June 13 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at CityPlace Expo Center in La Grange. This free community event includes face painting, a duck derby, carnival games and so much more. The Kid-Owned

Business Expo portion gives young entrepreneurs a chance to showcase their business ideas to a panel of judges. First and second place winners will receive cash prizes. The Jake Luxemburger Foundation is the recipient of all fees and donations made during the event.

GET OUTDOORS

Grab your team, grab your clubs for a second charity event on June 16 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. A charity golf Scramble will be held at Harmony Landing Golf Course in Goshen. Funds raised for this first annual golf scramble elevate the standard of care for survivors of trafficking and exploitation. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, lunch, beverages (beer, wine, and soda), prizes, evening reception and silent auction. Team of four players is \$1,000, individual cost is \$250 per person.

Visitors can always learn something new at the exciting workshops held at beautiful Yew Dell Botanical Gardens. Botanical Dye: Watercolor Painting takes place on June 6 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join local botanical artist, Briahna Michalsky, for this informative, hands-on session on botanical dye processes. She will guide participants through the process of making watercolor inks from collected material, then instruct how to

paint with dyes she cured in her studio. Cost is \$70 - \$80 per person.

Level up your next cocktail party with a Botanical Cocktail Workshop on June 12 from 6-8 p.m. Kick off the weekend with a one-of-a-kind craft cocktail experience led by Yew Dell's Chef Mike where you'll create cocktail syrups, bitters, floral craft ice and more. Ingredients will be harvested fresh from the gardens - shake cocktails, savor small bites and enjoy the gardens after hours. Ticket includes all supplies and are \$50 - \$60 per person.

And don't forget to visit Yew Dell's 2026 Farmers Market on June 26 from 4 - 8 p.m. This is a market stocked with great local vendors in a welcoming space where neighbors can gather among Yew Dell's inspiring gardens and grounds, share stories and connect over fresh, locally produced food. The monthly Farmers Market will coincide with Yew Dell's Fabulous Fridays—admission-free garden happy hours—creating an inviting and energetic community experience. The food vendor for this market will be The Celtic Pig. Event is included with admission price.

Join Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve's board member and amateur pteridologist (aka Fernatic), John Hubbard, for Under the Canopy: Ferns for the Woodland Garden on June

11 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Doc John will show his favorite ferns, describe their history, why they are worthy of space in the garden and describe how you may help them look their best so they add beauty and texture throughout the year. Cost is a donation of \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

CELEBRATE HISTORY

This year on June 20 from 6 - 8 p.m., local historic Black churches that grounded the Civil Rights Movement will be honored for a Juneteenth Celebration 2026 Banquet at CityPlace Expo Center in La Grange. This event celebrates with a panel discussion of local civil rights leaders: Rev. Dr. Charles Elliot, Jr., William E. Summer, IV and Mattie Jones. Hear about their personal journey with the Civil Rights Movement and how local Black churches gave ground to Civil Rights. Serenity Singers will bring depth to the program with their performance. Rev. W.H. Craighead (1861-1942) is the 2026 Elijah Marris Award Recipient. He was a local Oldham County native son born into slavery, educated by Elijah Marris and became a local Civil Rights Leader and pastor of Louisville's Zion Baptist Church. Denise Watts will Emcee. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Take in a little more history on June 12 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. with Hidden History Walking Wine Tour: History of La Grange. With a beverage in hand, explore the history of La Grange on a walking tour based on the book by Oldham County History Center Director, Dr. Nancy Stearns Theiss. Cost is \$20 per person for ages 21 and up only.

An Underground Railroad Car Tour will take place June 13 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. This driving tour is led by Nancy Theiss, author of "A Tour of the Underground Railroad Along the Ohio River." Participants on the tours will drive their own cars to specific sites of activities relating to Freedom Seekers. Registration

required, tickets are \$20 per person.

FUN FOR ALL

Ludwig's Moriarty will be performed on June 12-13, 18-20 from 7:30 - 10 p.m. and June 14 and 21 from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Little Colonel Playhouse in Pewee Valley. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are back on the case! An investigation into the Bohemian king's stolen letters cascades into an international mystery filled with spies, blackmail and intrigue. With world peace at stake, Holmes and Watson join forces with American actress Irene Adler to take down cunning criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty and his network of devious henchmen. Tickets for adults are \$13, seniors and students are \$10.

Cruisin with the Quads on June 27 from 5 - 8 p.m. is sure to get you in the mood for some laid-back old-time summer fun. Held in downtown La Grange at 2nd Avenue across from Springs Park, this free annual event feature classic cars, trucks and motorcycles of all kinds. Enjoy a DJ, door prizes, 50/50 drawings and more.

Music fuels many events in Oldham this summer. You'll find a night of music, fun, and prizes at Music Bingo at Ernesto's Mexican Cuisine on June 8 from 7 - 9 p.m. in La Grange. Chances to win \$50 and \$100 jackpots in both rounds. Free to play, cost for food and drinks.

A variety of free monthly summer concerts begins in June with Garden Grooves at 3rd Turn Oldham Gardens. An incredible lineup of local talent will take center-stage under the iconic wisteria canopy. Don't miss the groovy, acoustic melodies of R&R 3 on June 3, Fade II Grey on June 10, The Amber Currents Band on June 17 and Michael Searcy on June 24.

Trackside Tunes barrels down the tracks on June 5 from 6 - 9 p.m. at Springs Park featuring Rhythm & Wine.

SEE JUNE/PAGE B8

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CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- A young canine
- Cologne
- Fictional British P.I.
- Midway between northeast and east
- A place to shop
- Minneapolis suburb
- Single lens reflex
- NY Mets great Tommie
- Informal loan clubs
- Habitual twitching
- Holm oak
- Willing to consent or submit
- In an early way
- Made possible
- Language in Ghana
- Relating to one's birth
- Deep-bodied fishes
- Defunct European currency
- Small American songbird
- One from L.A.
- After tenth
- Hillside
- Red deer
- Partner to "oohed"
- Indian musical pattern
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Golden peas plant
- Breezed through
- Midway between east and southeast
- Frameworks
- Danish krone
- Fall back
- Influential Korean leader
- Closely woven cotton fabric
- A nice shot in golf
- Away from wind
- Evergreen shrub genus
- Large African antelope
- Something you receive
- Satisfy
- Wet dirt
- No longer here
- Writing utensil
- Ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Alternative forms of a gene
- Buddy
- We all do it
- Chicken
- No seats available
- Yearned to possess
- Ineffectual
- Explosive
- Turkish title
- Worn near the foot
- Impatient
- Set an example for others
- Actor Pitt
- Instrument of torture
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- A way to print
- Storied college hoops program
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Turkish leader title
- Nag
- Blank

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