

UP, UP AND AWAY!

A feature publication of The Courier & REVIEW TIMES

Discover 419

August 2025

Doing it for the smiles

Flag City BalloonFest celebrates 25 years

By: Saige Thornley



FINDLAY — Flag City BalloonFest was supposed to be a one-time deal, says BalloonFest pilot relations chair Becky Conley.

Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, this year promises to be spectacular.

Way back in 1999, the first BalloonFest was held as a way to celebrate the turn of the century.

“It was started by Dan Clinger,” Conley said. Clinger then recruited his son, Phil, and “they ‘voluntold’ about 15 of their friends and family ... It was a free family event,” Conley said.

In actuality, Clinger said his son obtained a balloon pilot’s license “in about the mid-90s” after booking

a hot-air balloon ride to propose to his wife. Phil Clinger would then help crew the balloon in competitions.

“He just fell in love with it,” Dan said.

“He and I were talking after one of those events,” Dan said. “I asked him, ‘Phil, what could we do to bring something like this to Findlay?’”

So they did some research and formed a committee.

“And when I got the committee together, we started playing out our plans. We anticipated this to be a one year event to kind of celebrate the year 2000. We no more than finished

Continued on page 3

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Ellie the Elephant will join other specially-designed hot air balloons at the 25th festival in August.



Hot air balloons glow as part of an evening "glow encounter" at a previous Flag City BalloonFest.

Continued from page 1

the first event and every day said, "We've got to do this every year," Dan said.

Twenty-five years later, the Flag City BalloonFest is still going strong.

The first year, there were 26 balloons and five food vendors. Now, there are 40 balloons and twenty-five vendors, events, attractions including balloon rides, helicopter rides, a car show, kids entertainment and much more all making Flag City BalloonFest the largest balloon event in Ohio.

"Forty is a good number," said Conley. "To keep our costs down and be stewards of the money we're given, we felt that 40 (balloons) was probably our max."

A free summer event, the fest kicks off at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8 at Emory Adams Park with an opening ceremony and balloon flight, but the night also promises plenty of food vendors, car show, a Kids' Zone, a petting zoo, helicopter rides and will culminate with a hot air balloon illumination. Friday is also veterans

night — veterans in attendance can get free pizza and drinks.

Then on Saturday and Sunday mornings, at around 7 a.m., there will be several competitive tasks for pilots.

Dan reported the results of those tasks are all put into a computer that then assigns the pilots a score. At 11 a.m. Sunday, the winners of those tasks will be announced.

Conley said any balloons, flying competitively or recreationally, getting off the ground is weather-dependent. A team of meteorologists will be up early watching any potential weather cells to ensure pilots and passengers will be safe flying.

If balloons are able to fly, Conley said, it is helpful to the pilots for nearby residents to put a white sheet in their yards, meaning the pilots have permission to land on the sheet if necessary.

"This is going to be a lot bigger," Conley said.

The event did not start as big as it is now, but Dan is thrilled it is still going steady.

"One of the best parts of the event is the 'ooohs and ahhs' from the kids and adults that are out there watching the event," he said. "It's very exciting to be able to bring that to town."

Though Dan is not still part of the organizing side of the fest, he is able to stand back and enjoy the fun. His son Phil is currently the pilot who flies the Visit Findlay balloon, sponsored by Visit Findlay - Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

More information about the balloons participating in the fest and the schedule of events can be found at flagcityballoonfest.com.

"It's a great experience and to sit back when it happens and to watch the reactions of everybody attending and to watch their faces light up, when we see the balloons go up ... It's priceless. We do it for the smiles," Dan said.

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CLASSES [Register at www.FindlayArtLeague.org](http://www.FindlayArtLeague.org)

Watercolor Flowers-Sundays, 6:00-8:00 pm, August 3 and 10; Tuition: \$100, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Jennifer Doyle

Beginning Pottery Wheel Throwing-Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, August 6, 13, 20, 27, September 10; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen

Intermediate Pottery Wheel Throwing-Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, August 7, 14, 21, 28, September 11; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, Beginning Wheel Class or equivalent experience required (18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen

Young Adult Pottery, Ages 9-17-Saturdays, 9-10:30 am Wheel, 10:30-noon Glazing, August 9, 16, 23; Tuition: \$150, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

 **FREE "Fun for All" Event: Coil Bowl**-Saturday, 1:00-4:00 pm, August 9; arrive anytime between 1:00 and 4:00 for a free 30 minute class sponsored by the Findlay Community Foundation. All materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Parent & Child (or 2 Adults) "Play-in-Clay" Wheel Throwing-Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm, August 16; Tuition: \$100 (for two), all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

 **FREE "Fun for All" Event: Butterfly Sculpture**-Saturday, 1:00-4:00 pm, August 23; arrive anytime between 1:00 and 4:00 for a free 30 minute class sponsored by the Findlay Community Foundation. All materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Dutch Pour Painting-Saturday, 12:00-1:30 pm, August 23; Tuition: \$60, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Thomas Cralely

Tree Ring Pour Painting-Saturday, 4:00-5:30 pm, September 27; Tuition: \$60, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Thomas Cralely

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Noteworthy games in the opening weeks of the 2025 NFL season

As the NFL season gets set to kick off, fans can circle these noteworthy early season games on their calendars.

- **Pittsburgh Steelers at New York Jets, September 7**
Though the Jets seem to be in rebuilding mode and the Steelers are not among the favorites to win a Super Bowl in the coming season, that does not mean this matchup lacks intrigue.
- **Washington Commanders at Green Bay Packers, September 11**
This Thursday night matchup features Reigning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year Jayden Daniels locking horns with Jordan Love, another of the league's exciting young quarterbacks.
- **Philadelphia Eagles at Kansas City Chiefs, September 14**
A rematch of Super Bowl LIX gives Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and crew another shot at Jalen Hurts and the Eagles, who largely dominated the two-time defending champions to secure Philadelphia's second Super Bowl championship in February.
- **Chicago Bears at Detroit Lions, September 14**
Though the Lions faltered in the second round of the playoffs a year ago, excitement remains high around a franchise that has enjoyed considerable success in recent years.
- **Cincinnati Bengals at Minnesota Vikings, September 21**
This Week 3 matchup against Joe Burrow and the Bengals could offer insight into whether or not the Vikings can reach the same heights the franchise rose to a year ago.

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AUGUST

LOCAL EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST 1



SUMMER ARTWALK

Downtown Findlay 5 - 9 pm

Artists will be located throughout Downtown Findlay in local shops, restaurants, and businesses as well as in our Downtown art anchors – Findlay Art League, Marathon Center for the Performing Arts, and Jones Building Artists Studios will be open.

AUGUST 1-2



CAREY FEST 2025

Downtown Carey 8/1: 4 pm - Midnight 8/2: 8 am - Midnight

Don't miss the annual Carey Fest that offers something for all ages! The Fest includes a parade, games, inflatables, exhibits, live music, beer garden, karaoke, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, and so much more.

AUGUST 2



CAR TUNES ON MAIN

Downtown Findlay Noon - 4 pm

Enjoy music provided by a DJ in front of the courthouse as you walk through Downtown to see all the vehicles. New this year is a Semi Class !

AUGUST 8-10



FLAG CITY BALLOON FEST

Emory Adams Park

8/8: 4-11 pm 8/9: 9 am - midnight 8/10: 7-11 am

1827 S Blanchard St, Findlay

More than just balloons, this multi-day festival has fun for all ages with live music, kids zone, craft show, helicopter rides, fireworks and much more.

Visit <https://www.flagcityballoonfest.com> for a full schedule.



FINDLAY FLEA MARKET

Hancock County Fairgrounds 8/9: 9 am - 4 pm 8/10: 9 am - 3 pm

1017 E. Sandusky St, Findlay

Shop the variety of vendor booths and enjoy delicious food from the food trucks. Free admission.



BUCYRUS BRATWURST FESTIVAL

Downtown Bucyrus 11 am - 11 pm

Grab some delicious bratwurst and enjoy all the fun in downtown Bucyrus! Festivities include the crowning of Bratwurst Royalty, daily parades, eating contests, a stein auction, free entertainment, craft and art show, rides, games, beer gardens and more. There are all kinds of activities to keep all ages entertained.



MOTORS ON THE MIDWAY

Hancock County Fairgrounds 10 am - 4 pm

1017 E. Sandusky St, Findlay

Be a part of the first Motors on the Midway! Following the car show there will be a live band, beer garden, bounce houses, and more.



FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation 1 - 4 pm

12505 County Rd 99, Findlay

A great way to spend the day with the family! Enjoy games, quarter scale train rides, bounce house, and other family friendly activities and events all afternoon for one price. \$5

This information was pulled from community websites and was considered current at press time. We apologize for any information that may have been changed/updated after this edition was printed.

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- ☐ Best Sports Bar
- ☐ Best Wine Selection

Arts & Entertainment

- ☐ Best Event Venue
- ☐ Best Family Entertainment
- ☐ Best Festival/Event
- ☐ Best Live Music Venue
- ☐ Best Local Band
- ☐ Best Trivia Night

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- ☐ Best Auto Detailing
- ☐ Best Auto Mechanic Shop
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- ☐ Best Car Wash
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- ☐ Best Oil & Lube Shop
- ☐ Best New Tire Center
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- ☐ Best Hair Salon
- ☐ Best Kid's Haircut
- ☐ Best Manicure/Pedicure
- ☐ Best Men's Haircut
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- ☐ Best Tattoo Shop

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- ☐ Best Insurance Agency
- ☐ Best Law Firm
- ☐ Best Mortgage Services
- ☐ Best Nonprofit
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- ☐ Best Professional Photographer
- ☐ Best Real Estate Company
- ☐ Best Realtor
- ☐ Best Senior or Assisted Living Facility
- ☐ Best Service Club
- ☐ Best Tax Prep Services

Shopping

- ☐ Best Bedding & Mattress Store
- ☐ Best Clothing Store
- ☐ Best Farm Supply Store
- ☐ Best Floral Shop
- ☐ Best Furniture Store
- ☐ Best Garden Center
- ☐ Best Gift Shop
- ☐ Best Grocery Store
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Budget-Friendly Family Fun Ideas

Raising a family is an expensive endeavor. A recent report from the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that the cost of raising a child from birth to age 18 is \$233,610. Though parents know that's a small price to pay for all the joy their children bring into their lives, those same moms and dads also wouldn't mind a little financial relief from time to time.

Family outings can be great bonding experiences, and parents may be happy to learn that there's a host of budget-friendly activities that are fun and affordable.

- **Movie night under the stars:** For the relatively low cost of a mini projector and accompanying screen, parents can host routine outdoor movie nights in the backyard. Though parents might expect some sticker shock when they begin looking for an outdoor

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mini projector, it's worth noting that seven of the 10 projectors that make up Amazon's best sellers list are less than \$150. Some of those products even come with their own screens at no extra cost.

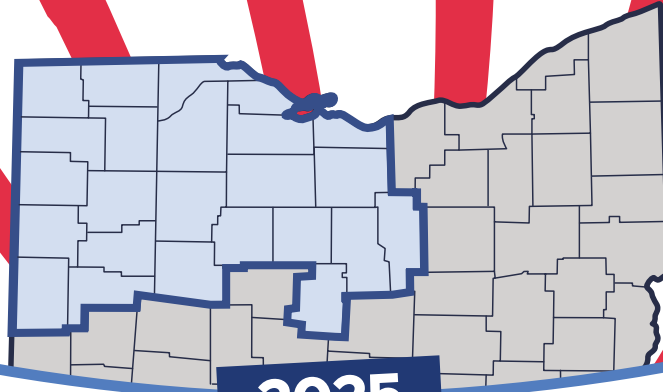
- **Picnic in the park:** Some families may be experiencing some sticker shock as they dine out. Soaring food and supply costs have forced restaurant owners to raise prices. Families can still enjoy eating out on occasion but they can alternate a night out with having homemade meals, or even takeout, away from home. A picnic in the park can make for a wonderful family outing and is typically budget friendly.

- **Find "yourselves":** Families are finding that digging into their own histories is a great way to learn more about who they are. A 2020 report from Transparency Market Research estimated that the market for global DNA

test kits, which help people learn more about their ancestry, is expected to expand by nearly 25 percent between 2019 and 2027. Test kits typically cost around \$100, and families can then use the information they glean from test results to conduct their own free research on the history and culture of the countries their ancestors called home.

- **Exercise:** Exercising together is a great way for families to get healthy and feel good. Traditional workouts with weights and time on a treadmill may not be everyone's idea of a fun time, but families can go for a hike, kayak in a nearby lake, take up jogging, or even play a favorite sport together in a local park.

Parents know raising a family can be expensive. Thankfully, there are many ways families can have fun together without breaking the bank.

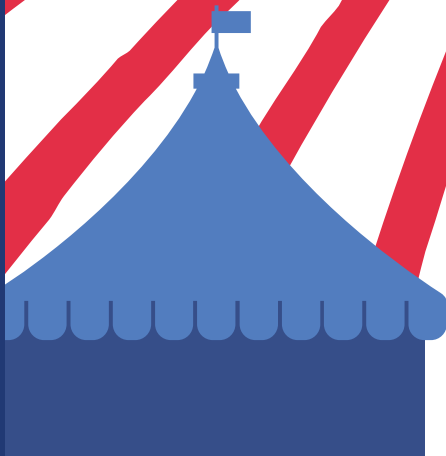


2025

NORTHWEST OHIO

FAIR

CALENDAR



AUGUST

3rd-9th	Richland County Fair (Mansfield)	richlandcountyfair.com
4th-10th	Erie County Fair (Sandusky)	eriefair.com
7th-13th	Mercer County Fair (Celina)	mercercountyfair.com
7th-14th	Henry County Fair (Napoleon)	henrycountyfair.org
11th-16th	Huron County Fair (Norwalk)	huroncountyfair.com
15th-23rd	Allen County Fair (Lima)	allencofair.com
16th-23rd	Defiance County Fair (Hicksville)	defiancecofair.com
18th-24th	Sandusky County Fair (Fremont)	sanduskycountyfair.com
25th-Sep 1	Morrow County Fair (Mt Gilead)	morrowcountyfair.org
26th-Sep 1	Van Wert County Fair (Van Wert)	vanwertcountyfair.com
26th-Sep 1	Hancock County Fair (Findlay)	hancockcountyfairgrounds.org
29th-Sep 4	Fulton County Fair (Wauseon)	fultoncountyfair.com

SEPTEMBER

2nd-7th	Hardin County Fair (Kenton)	hardincountyfair.org
6th-13th	Williams County Fair (Montpelier)	wcofair.com
8th-13th	Wyandot County Fair (Upper Sandusky)	thewyandotcountyfair.com
14th-20th	Ashland County Fair (Ashland)	ashlandcountyfair.org



All Fair dates and web addresses were pulled from community websites and considered current at press time.

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Did you know?

According to the American Kennel Club (AKC)
the most popular dog name for 2024 was Bella for females,
replacing Luna, while Buddy was the
most popular name for male dogs, dethroning Charlie.

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from August 1925

The month of August has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in August 1925.

- The National Football League awards franchises to four new teams on August 1. Among the newly minted franchises is the New York Giants, a team that remains in the league today.
- The Fascists win local elections in Sicily on August 3. The Blackshirts, an all-volunteer militia loyal to Fascist leader Benito Mussolini, are stationed at voting booths throughout Sicily during the election.
- The last United States Marines are withdrawn from Nicaragua on August 4. The U.S. occupation of the country began thirteen years prior.
- The President of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal, divorces his wife of less than two years on August 5. Kemal is upset that his wife, Latife Usaki, publicly promoted emancipation of women and encouraged their independence in regard to choice of clothing.
- The Dallas Hilton opens on August 6. It is the first high-rise hotel to bear the Hilton name.
- Tens of thousands of Ku Klux Klan members march down Pennsylvania

Avenue in Washington, D.C. on August 8. Heavy rains force the cancellation of a planned ceremony that had been scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the march.

- Twin brothers Norris and Ross McWhirter are born in Winchmore Hill, Essex, England on August 12. The brothers would eventually create The Guinness Book of World Records.
- American sculptor Gutzon Borglum is invited to the Black Hills region of South Dakota on August 14. Borglum, who is now best known for his work on Mount Rushmore, visits the region to scout for a location for carving a monument on the side of a mountain.
- The Cuban Communist Party is founded in Havana on August 16. The party eventually merged with Fidel Castro's Integrated Revolutionary Organizations in 1961.
- The Fourteenth World Zionist Congress opens in Vienna on August 17. Protests by Austrian fascists outside the Congress turn violent and result in injuries to 30 people and 50 arrests.
- Fidel LaBarba defeats Frankie Genaro in a 10-round decision to win the vacant World Flyweight Championship in Los Angeles on August 22.

· A boxing match between welterweight champion Mickey Walker and William "Sailor" Friedman ends in a no-decision in Chicago on August 24. In a dressing room meeting prior to the match, Walker was advised by Al Capone to go easy on Friedman.

· A Spanish naval bombardment effectively levels the Moroccan city of Rif during the Rif War on August 25.

· African American singer Marian Anderson first achieves fame after performing with the New York Philharmonic orchestra on August 26. Anderson would go on to perform with renowned orchestras throughout the United States and Europe in a decades-long career, all the while serving as an important figure as African Americans struggled to overcome racial prejudice in the U.S. in the mid-twentieth century.

· Several notable Nicaraguan politicians are kidnapped in Managua on August 28. Armed men ultimately take the hostages to La Loma, a mountain-top fortress.

· Babe Ruth is fined \$5,000 and suspended for one week by New York Yankees manager Miller Huggins on August 29. Ruth was disciplined after failing to show up for batting practice.



EVENT SCHEDULE

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Food Truck Frenzy

AUGUST 20 & SEPTEMBER 17
WEDNESDAY 4:00-8:00 PM



Night of Worship

Hosted by Elmwood Fellowship of Christian Athletes

SEPTEMBER 6
SATURDAY 6:00 PM

Johnny Appleseed Days & Craft Show

SEPTEMBER 13 & 14
SATURDAY 9:00 AM-5:00 PM & SUNDAY 12:00-5:00 PM



Corn Maze

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Corn Maze Paintball

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Christmas Lights & More!

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