

Ingenuityfest brings weekend of art and technology

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BEST OF CLEVELAND

Outdoor venues offer fun for families



LAURA
DEMARCO

The sun has finally come out, for a few minutes, at least. So don't waste any time getting out there.

The clock is ticking in Northeast Ohio — turning leaves and falling flakes aren't all that far away. Read on for some of the Best Outdoor Family Fun in Northeast Ohio. Then get going.

Ingenuityfest, today through Sunday at PlayhouseSquare, East 14th Street, Star Plaza, the Idea Center and various storefronts and alleys downtown, ingenuitycleveland.com: It's not ALL about out-there performance art, cutting-edge DJs and interpretive dance in the alleys at Cleveland's premier arts and culture fest this weekend. In fact, Ingenuityfest has a pretty amazing family area, with music, film and hands-on art and science events planned for three days. Most intriguing sounding is DIY electro sound-collage duo Beatrix*JAR, performing at 8 p.m. Friday and conducting circuit-bending workshops at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Attendees are asked to bring electronic gadgets and toys to join in. *For an Ingenuityfest preview, see today's Friday magazine cover story.*

Lake Metroparks Farmpark, 8800 Chardon Road, Kirtland, 440-256-2122, lakemetroparks.com: A baby calf born the day before (umbilical cord still attached), nursing piglets just a week old, a cow being milked, ice cream being made, billy goat kids romping, tomatoes growing, sheep being shorn... these are just a few of the natural wonders I took in on a recent visit to this Northeast Ohio gem. City and suburban kids — and parents — will be amazed, touched and educated with a visit to this lovely farm, which also includes a restaurant, an orchard, a vineyard, a playground, wagon rides, pony rides and frequent special events, including harvest weekends and hayrides in the fall.

Memphis Kiddie Park, 10340 Memphis Ave., Brooklyn, 216-941-5995, memphiskiddiepark.com: There's nothing educational or artistic about Memphis Kiddie Park — but it sure is fun. Take a tot here and every time you get in the car from then on, they will be asking, "Are we going to Kiddie Park???" Can we go to Kiddie Park, pleeeaaasse???" Open since 1952, this West Side favorite is



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Davauna Hylton, left, of North Olmsted, rides the Memphis Kiddie Park merry-go-round while being steadied by her grandmother Janet Hylton in 2004. Her brother, Demyan, second from right, gets some help from cousin Jenna Farmer.



LYNN ISCHAY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Miniature horses Kodiak, left, and Copenhagen indulge in a little tandem grazing at Lake Metroparks Farmpark in May.

a quaint blast from the past, with 11 amusement rides for small children, including a mini-Ferris wheel, a roller coaster and a full-size merry-go-round. There's also a train, a rocket car, boats, carny food galore (hot dogs and cotton candy, mmmm...) and miniature golf. Can we go to Kiddie Park again — pleeeaaasse???

Dinosaurs at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, 3900 Wildlife Way, 216-661-6500, clemetzo.com: All the animals aren't flesh and blood at the zoo this summer. One of the season's hottest draws features creatures who bade the planet adieu quite a while ago: dinosaurs! Through Sunday, Sept. 13, 18 prehistoric beasts from the tiny Compsognathus to the king of 'em all, T. rex, have come to life at the zoo this summer. These animatronic dinosaurs walk, turn — and ROAR.

Hershey Children's Garden at the Cleveland Botanical

Garden, 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, 216-721-1600, cbgarden.org: There is no more lovely way to spend a summer day with your little ones than at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, where the children's garden not only features a fairy-tale-worthy stepping-stone pond and treehouse, but also an adorable cottage with a roof of greenery, a fountain for splish-splashing and an educational area where kids can learn about plants and even do a little watering themselves. Everything in the area is perfectly pint-sized and whimsical, from the tiny arches to the flowers growing in upside-down umbrellas. Makes me wish I was small again.

OVERHEARD

A weekly look at people and places in the national press: This week, we look at a recent Los Angeles Times article about traveling to Cleveland to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

"For a music-themed road

trip, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland is pretty much a must-see," said writer Mark Milian. "I had last visited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame about a decade ago. I'm glad I ignored the dissenting advice from reader Chris Ridenhour, who called it 'one place you should avoid.'... The museum was worth revisiting. Besides the standard exhibits, I got to catch the middle of an on-stage interview with Darryl McDaniels, a member of the pioneering hip-hop group Run-DMC."

OUTSIDE OPINION

Each week, "Outside Opinion" asks a visitor what he or she likes best about Cleveland. This week, we talk to Naomi Rippey, a recent graduate in marketing studies from Cincinnati.

Rippey, 26, was in town to visit her fiancé's family.

"I really like Edgewater Park and the lake shore," said Rippey, who wasn't as fond of the weather. "It's always at least 10 degrees colder than it is in Cincinnati," she explains.

While in town, she visited downtown, Edgewater and East Coast Custard in Parma Heights. One of her favorite stops was somewhat surprising, though: "Marc's [discount store], because there's no store like it in Cincinnati. Where else can you find groceries, closeout bargains and exotic birds?"

DeMarco is The Plain Dealer's Friday magazine editor. Have a "Best of Cleveland" question? Or answer? E-mail her.

To reach Laura DeMarco: ldemarco@plained.com, 216-999-4577