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Fairport Canal improvements unveiled

Project will include landscaping and new boater facilities

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Many boaters dock on the Erie Canal in Fairport and frequent the village businesses. (Democrat and Chronicle staff photo by Jamie Germano,) / JAMIE GERMANO /2010 file photograph

Written by **BENNETT J. LOUDON**
Staff writer

Canal Days kicks off.

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The upgrades, funded by \$718,238 in state grants, will include new benches, lights, bike racks, brick pavers, landscaping and improved pedestrian access to the south bank. And new docks will be constructed east of the Parker Street Bridge.

The work will be done between the lift bridge over the Erie Canal at Main Street, eastward to the Park Street Bridge, and on toward Church Street.

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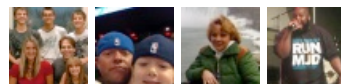
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Officials include: State Canal Director Brian U. Stratton, Fairport Mayor Frederick "Fritz" May, state Senator James Alesi, state Assemblyman Mark Johns, village trustees, members of Fairport's Industrial Development Agency and members of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council.

"The upgrades to Fairport's waterfront will bring more events to the area, and with that comes increased visitor spending at local businesses and greater employment opportunities for the surrounding communities," Joel Seligman, President of the University of Rochester and Regional Economic Development Council co-chair, said in a news release.

Fairport Canal Days will run through Sunday and is expected to attract about 200,000 people to the community.

"The village of Fairport is an example how a community can capitalize on its proximity to New York's historic and beautiful Erie Canal," said Stratton.

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