



MEDIA ADVISORY

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2018 “National Birth of the Burger Day” Kick Off

- WHAT:** “National Birth of the Burger Day” will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 18th. **The day prior, Monday, September 17th**, the Erie County Agricultural Society will celebrate with the presentation of an oversized hamburger prepared by the culinary staff of Delaware North. The event will also be highlighted by brief comments by national burger historian and author Chris Carosa and the release of information about the “Great Hamburger Cook-Off” event. National Birth of the Burger Day commemorates the invention of the hamburger at the 1885 Erie County Fair by Frank and Charles Menches of Canton, Ohio.
- WHO:** Erie County Fair Representatives; Chris Carosa, Burger Historian; Hamburg Gaming Culinary Department; Great Hamburger Cook-Off participating restaurants; Burger Water Tower project representatives
- WHEN:** **Monday, September 17th (Day BEFORE National Birth of the Burger Day)**
- TIME:** 10:30 am
- WHERE:** Erie County Fairgrounds, Heritage & History Center (Fair Museum), Avenue of Flags

HAMBURG, NEW YORK – September 18th has officially been designated as “National Birth of the Burger Day” by the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, New York. The day commemorates the invention of the hamburger sandwich that took place during the 1885 Erie County Fair by Frank and Charles Menches of Canton, Ohio. To mark the occasion, the culinary staff of Hamburg Gaming will prepare an oversized burger to act as a “birthday cake.” The press event will also feature comments by hamburger historian and author Chris Carosa and the release of information about Hamburg’s “Great Hamburger Cook-Off” event.

“Birth of the Hamburger in Hamburg” Canton, Ohio natives Frank and Charles Menches were food vendors at the 1885 Erie County Fair, also known as the Hamburg Fair. Legend has it that during the course of the Fair, the Menches ran out of their signature menu item of pork sausage sandwiches. Their local supplier, Hamburg butcher Andrew Klein, was reluctant to butcher more hogs during a period of unseasonable late summer heat and suggested to substitute the use of ground beef. The brothers fired some up, but both found it dry and bland. They added coffee, brown sugar and other ingredients to create a unique taste. The original sandwiches were sold with just ketchup and sliced onions. With new found success with their beef sandwich, they christened it the “hamburger” after the Erie County Fair’s home town of Hamburg, New York.

Why September 18th? Until the early 1920s, the Erie County Fair was held mid to late September or as late as early October to celebrate the agricultural harvest. The 1885 Erie County Fair, the event that saw the invention of the hamburger, was held September 16th-18th, 1885.