

St. Patrick's Day party returns to Niagara Falls Convention Center

The 39th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, presented by the Niagara Falls Ancient Order of Hibernians, will take place Friday, March 17. The area's largest St. Patrick's Day party – and 131st birthday celebration of Niagara Falls – will kick off with the "World's Shortest Parade" at 4:45 p.m. from the corner of Rainbow Boulevard and Old Falls Street. Family-friendly festivities will continue until 11 p.m. inside the Niagara Falls Convention Center at 101 Old Falls St.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy traditional Irish food, drinks and live entertainment provided by the Restless Soles and the McCarthy School of Irish Dance. Organizers are



asking attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Heart, Love & Soul, a nonprofit hunger-relief and social serv-

ices agency in Niagara Falls.

Tickets for the event are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are avail-

The Niagara Falls Convention Center welcomes the return of Western New York's largest St. Patrick's Day party on Friday, March 17. (Image courtesy of Destination Niagara USA)

able online at bit.ly/aohickets, as well as at the following locations:

- √ B&B Cigars – 2006 Main St., Niagara Falls
 - √ Cheri Amour – 522 Center St., Lewiston
 - √ Capitol Cleaners – 125 Portage Road, Lewiston
 - √ Wellness Park Pharmacy – 8672 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls
 - √ Always a Party – 2530 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls
- Discounted hotel rates are

available for the Sheraton Niagara Falls, Hyatt Place Niagara Falls and Holiday Inn Niagara Falls, which are all within walking distance of the Niagara Falls Convention Center. Visit the Niagara Falls Convention Center Facebook page for more details on booking.

The mission of Destination Niagara USA is to expand the economic prosperity of the Niagara Falls USA communities by generating individual and group visitation. For more information, visit niagarafallsusa.com.

Youngstown events highlight 'St. Patrick's Day Weekend' in Niagara County

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12 and under admitted free. Advanced-sale tickets are available online at bit.ly/aohickets. For more information, visit the Niagara Falls Ancient Order of Hibernians on Facebook.

• Up in Youngstown, Pat Stack's Somewhere Bar & Grill will host

a "Happy St. Paddy's Day Party" from 4 to 11 p.m. Featured will be the music of the late Bernie Stack and the Irish Wake Band, along with fine Irish cuisine and beverages.

• More St. Patrick's Day celebrations on March 17-18 include those at the Wagon Wheel in Ni-

agara Falls; the Beach House, DeGlopper VFW Post 9249, Grand Island Moose Lodge 180 and Sandee's Pub on Grand Island; the Brickyard Pub & BBQ in Lewiston; and Dwyer's Irish Pub in North Tonawanda.

• And a can't-miss is the 12th annual O'Riordan St. Patrick's

Day parade at noon Saturday along Youngstown's Main Street.

Presented by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, the parade is held in memory of former Mayor Neil Riordan.

"Neil Riordan would have loved the St. Patrick's Day Parade that

has been held every year in his honor since his death in 2011," the YBPA noted in a release.

Dotty Riordan, Neil's wife, along with YBPA President Cheryl Irish-Butera, Mark Butera, parade coordinators Colleen Mary Johnson Summerville and Melissa Kudel, and YBPA membership, invite all to attend.

"Neal Riordan loved the village," Dotty Riordan said, noting his 32 years of service to Youngstown, first as a 22-year member of the Village Board, then as mayor for 10 years. "He did everything he could to make sure things worked out for everybody."

The parade begins on Main at Hinman streets, and continues north to Falkner Park, where it does a 360-degree-turn and concludes at the front of the Ontario House (aka The Jug). Robert Emerson, director of Old Fort Niagara, will lead the parade with OFN soldiers. Featured will be a call to arms ceremony in Riordan's honor at Main and Lockport streets.

Cheryl Butera spoke fondly of the parade's beginnings.

"This parade began in 2012 with just one decorated shopping cart from then Melloni's Market and has grown to a legitimate parade with every imaginable display of participants," she said. "Besides being led by the Old Fort Niagara soldiers, the grand marshal will be Town of Porter Councilman and YBPA liaison Timothy Adamson."

A large number of participants are expected, including elected officials, the Youngstown and Ransomville volunteer fire companies, U.S. Coast Guard Station Niagara, the Youngstown Lions Club, the Youngstown Village Diner, Ki-Po Chevrolet, Youngstown First Presbyterian Church, Youngstown Free Library, the MacKenzie Highlanders of Youngstown, Lower Niagara Moose Lodge 584, the Niagara Clown Alley and Lew Port Youth football and cheer team members.

New this year will be This Must Be the Place decorating a shopping cart "float" as well as a float sponsored by Peace of Mind Wellness.

"It's free, it's festive, and it's a great way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day," Cheryl Butera said.

For more information, visit the YBPA event page on Facebook or call 716-745-7989.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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