

## Council for Older Adults calls for heritage recipes

The Council for Older Adults in Niagara County launched a unique project to document the area's cultural history through food. The COA invited all Niagara County residents to submit traditional family recipes to preserve and commemorate their cultural history and honor their loved ones through the creation of a community cookbook. "A Taste of History: Heritage Recipes from Niagara County" will be available for sale later this year for a nominal fee.

"Food has a way of bringing us together like nothing else. Treasured family recipes can connect us and bring us together to tell the story of where we come from," COA co-

ordinator Monica Barner said. "My mom died over 30 years ago and I have always regretted never writing down her orange cookie recipe. I would give anything to taste those cookies again and be transported back to our kitchen."

COA said, "Food is an important part of culture and identity for so many Western New Yorkers. Immigrants from all over the world bring the food of their countries with them wherever they go, and using those traditional recipes is a way of preserving cultural heritage and passing on family traditions to future generations."

All Niagara County residents are welcome to submit their fam-

ily recipes via email to [coa@hanci.com](mailto:coa@hanci.com). Include your contact information, a short story about the recipe, and attach any photos that might be relevant. Photos of handwritten recipes, family gatherings, the creator of this recipe and the completed food item are especially encouraged for inclusion in the book. Final cookbook will include as many recipes as possible, given space limitations. Recipes will be accepted through March 1. If assistance is needed for submitting recipes or photos, call the COA at 285-8224, ext. 215.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/The-Health-Association-of-Niagara-County-Inc-HANCI>.

## Program highlights Fort Niagara's African American history

In honor of Black History Month, Old Fort Niagara will host a special tour at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, highlighting African Americans who served at the military post from the 18th through the 20th centuries. The tour will recount the life of Richard Pierpoint, a former slave, who served as a member of Butler's Rangers during the American Revolution. Pierpoint went on to support the British during the War of 1812.

The tour will also discuss the exploits of the 24th Infantry Regiment, a unit that garrisoned Fort Niagara in the summer of 1909. The 24th was an African-American regiment formed in 1869 as

one of the "Buffalo Soldier" regiments raised after the Civil War.

The tour concludes with a visit to the Fort Niagara Officers Club and a discussion of Hubert Crawford, a Buffalo-based artist who painted the mural "Lions of Cantigny." A Native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Crawford moved to Buffalo in 1917. He was active in the Buffalo arts community and advocated the arts as a pathway to a better life. Crawford was a prize-winning artist whose works were displayed at several national exhibitions during the 1930s.

Tour size is limited to 20. Pre-registration is required to Erika Schrader at 745-7611, ext. 221, or [eschrader@oldfortniagara.org](mailto:eschrader@oldfortniagara.org).

## Higgins: Federal fire grants available to local departments for fire prevention & safety

FP&S grant applications due Feb. 26

Congressman Brian Higgins announced the fire prevention and safety grant application period is now open with a deadline of 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26.

"As our community relies on its brave firefighters for protection, our firefighters rely on their training to make quick, intelligent decisions that save lives," Higgins said. "The fire prevention and safety program utilizes federal funding to support initiatives that keep firefighters and our communities safe. We encourage local departments to apply."

Fire prevention and safety grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and support projects that en-

hance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. Congress approved \$35.5 million for fire prevention and safety grants in the current cycle. The primary goal is to reduce injury and prevent death among high-risk populations, including children and seniors. Eligible uses include public education, training, juvenile fire programs, arson investigation and code enforcement. In 2005, Congress expanded eligible uses of fire prevention and safety funds to include firefighter safety research and development, such as clinical studies or technology and product development.

Applicants with questions can also contact the fire grants help

desk at [firegrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-866-274-0960 open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. More information on the grant program is available at <https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants>.

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