

St. Patrick's Day celebrations adjusting for 2021



Young dancers from the McCarthy School of Irish Dance, a favorite of many Buffalo-Niagara St. Patrick's celebrations are among the many groups hoping for a return to normalcy in 2022. (File photo)



The 10th annual O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day parade, presented by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, returns to Youngstown's Main Street on March 19, 2022. (File photo)

**BY TERRY DUFFY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

St. Patrick's Day 2021 in Buffalo Niagara will look different this month, as the region continues its rebound from the yearlong COVID-19 pandemic.

In Niagara Falls, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Irish breakfast, scheduled for March 7, is postponed to this summer. Find details on the group's Facebook page.

The annual O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade in Youngstown has been pushed to 2022.

Presented each year by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, COVID-19 put the brakes on this year's celebrations. Cheryl Irish Butera, president of the YBPA, said the business association approached the Youngstown Village Board of Trustees with a request to hold the 2021 parade March 13 on Main Street, from Hinman Street on the south to Falkner Park on the north, as is tradition.

"Due to COVID-19 issues we are wondering if we could safely hold a modified parade, practicing safe measures," Butera wrote to Mayor Raleigh Reynolds and the Village Board. "We are thinking vehicle use will be encouraged, i.e.: Volunteer Fire Company trucks, police cars, Lions, US Coast Guard, and local businesses vehicles, as well as the Old Fort Niagara guard and MacKenzie Highlanders - practicing 6 foot social distancing and masks wearing.

"All participants and bystanders will be required to be socially distanced and wear masks."

"Notice of event will be limited to the YBPA membership, the Village of Youngstown and Town of Porter, and will be conducted entirely outdoors, a totally open-air environment."

Butera noted YBPA had event insurance in place.

Despite those assurances, the Village of Youngstown decided it was best to not approve this year's request for the parade.

"The Board discussed your request last night at the Board meeting. The Board feels that based on the current restrictions and spread of the virus at this time they cannot approve the request to hold the parade. The Board is hopeful that we will be back to a normal state soon and looks forward to future events," Clerk-Treasurer Wendy J. Brown wrote in the village reply.

In response, YBPA said it would hold its 10th annual O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day parade celebration starting at noon Saturday, March 19, 2022.

•Another local happening modified for COVID-19 is the Youngstown Lions Club's annual "St. Patrick's Cash Bash" raffle fundraiser, which is typically held following the parade at the Youngstown Red Brick Village Center. Instead, Youngstown Lions will hold an online "Cash Bash" starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17.

Youngstown Lions Club President Terry

Cummings said, "The club has decided to hold a no in-person event without the usual party due to the COVID-19 regulations. Many worthwhile charities have asked the Lions for their assistance during the pandemic and, without the community's continual support of the 'Cash Bash' fundraiser, it would be impossible for the Youngstown Lions to address their needs."

Fifteen cash drawings will be held on St. Patrick's Day evening with prizes totaling \$3,400. A list of winners will be posted after the draw at the following online locations: the Youngstown Lions Facebook page (www.facebook.com/youngstownNYlionsclub) and the Youngstown Lions website (www.youngstownlions.org).

Proceeds benefit Youngstown Lions Park, the Youngstown Lions Scholarship Fund in honor of the late Neil Riordan, and many other Lions-supported charities.

Tickets are available for a \$20 donation. To purchase tickets, contact Suzanne DeJoseph (sdejoseph9@gmail.com/807-8875) Richard Allen (allen14174@roadrunner.com/870-9722) or Cummings (BTNRidge@msn.com/550-6268).

Tickets are also available at the Youngstown Village Diner, Stone Jug, Victoria's Hair Salon, Youngstown Barber Shop, and Anchor Spirits and Wines; Coppins Service Center in Lewiston; Porter Town Hall; and the Little Bakery in Niagara Falls.

"We Lions hope that in 2022 we are able

to hold this fundraiser along with entertainment, food and refreshments," Cummings said.

•Still another St. Patrick's Day favorite that underwent change for 2021 is the annual concert/celebration featuring the Irish Wake Band. This popular event, featuring Pat Stack and a number of talented musicians, has been held in past years at the Somewhere bar/restaurant (currently operating limited operations due to the pandemic).

For 2021, the Irish Wake concert will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the Rapids Theater, 1711 Main St., Niagara Falls. Tickets are priced at \$20 general admission and available online at https://www.out-housetickets.com/Artist/Irish_Wake_Band.

Still more St. Patrick's Day-related news:

•The popular St. Patrick's Day Parade on Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo is canceled for 2021, again falling victim to the COVID-19 pandemic. The parade had been scheduled to take place Sunday, March 14.

Parade organizers, the United Irish American Association announced the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for 2 p.m., Sunday, March 20, along Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo.

Patrick D. McGuinness, a second-generation descendent of Ireland, will serve as the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade grand marshal.

For more information, visit www.buffalost-patricksdayparade.com.

•See more events on Page 20.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Como Restaurant
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St. Joseph's Day Deli Special
Friday, March 19th - Served 11:00am - 7:00pm
Large Variety of choices for your traditional St. Joseph's Day Feast

St. Joseph's Day Dinner
Friday, March 19th - Served 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Soup, Shrimp, Salad, Pasta, St. Joseph's Platter Bread & Dessert **\$24.95**
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WEEKLY SPECIALS

MON Closed on Monday until further notice
TUE 6AM-8PM - Corned Beef & Cabbage or Chicken Parm
WED 6AM-8PM - Corned Beef & Cabbage, Reubens or Fish
THURS 6AM-8PM - Chicken Cutlet or Fish
FRI 6AM-2PM - Haddock, Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder

SAT & SUN OPEN AT 6AM - Eggs Benedict, Banana Walnut Pancakes, Spinach & Feta Omelet & Our Full Breakfast & Lunch Menu

St. Patrick's Take Out Dinner to Benefit Historic Old Stone Church

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston
Wednesday, March 17 • 4 - 6 p.m. until sold out
Corned beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots and Dessert

Pre-order dinners, \$15 and can be reserved by Friday, March 12

Call 754-4945 and leave your name, phone number and number of reservations
Full price dinners, \$17 will be available at the door until 6 p.m. or sold out
Cash only payments appreciated.

Pickup at rear entrance, 505 Cayuga St. Lewiston
Proceeds to benefit preservation of The Old Stone Church, Lewiston's oldest and most historic church