

Area celebrates St. Patrick's Day in style

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

With the impacts from COVID-19 continuing to fade, Buffalo-Niagara residents welcomed back St. Patrick's Day with open arms with a host of gatherings, celebrations and parades throughout the area. Last Thursday, the Niagara Falls Chapter of Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrated St. Patrick's and the city's birthday with hundreds on hand at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. In the photos, Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino teams up with AOH Parade Marshal Patty Mahoney at the "World's Shortest Parade" on Old Falls Street, which opened the celebrations. Inside the Convention Center, families gathered to enjoy the St. Patty's culture with plenty of Irish foods and beverages, musical entertainment and Irish dancers throughout the evening.

On Saturday, the morning rains cleared just in time for the 10th annual O'Riordan St. Patrick's Parade on Youngstown's Main Street. Presented by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, the affair drew plenty of visitors to the village to enjoy the fun and frolics of the early spring, and Irish-themed celebrations. In the photos, Parade Marshal Tim Adamson, councilman of the Town of Porter, leads a contingent of town officials and Niagara County sheriffs; the Lower Niagara Moose Lodge 584 float won the Taste of Youngstown top prize in the parade; and marchers of all ages joined in the fun.

"A fantastic day for our #YBPA 10th annual St. Patrick's day parade. And no rain! In fact, the sun actually shone through the clouds. A great time was had by all," said Cheryl Irish Butera, president of the YBPA.



(Photos by Barney Gallagher of the Niagara Falls AOH, Wayne Peters, and K&D Action Photo and Aerial Imaging)



IN THE NEWS

BPO presents special concert for Ukraine

In the spirit of healing, honoring lives lost, and providing hope to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra will present "Slava Ukraini: A Benefit Concert for Ukraine," at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at Kleinhans Music Hall.

This special performance, conducted by Maestro JoAnn Falletta, will feature the full orchestra performing music that allows for moments of quiet reflection and celebrates resiliency of spirit, including "Melody" by Myroslav Skoryk, which has become the unofficial theme for the Ukrainian conflict; as well as Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Chopin's Valse No. 2 from Les Sylphides Suite, and Sibelius' Finlandia - all resounding anthems of trial and triumph.

To purchase tickets or to make a donation, call 716-885-5000, visit bpo.org, or stop by the Kleinhans box office.

Inaugural Niagara Falls USA Marathon

iRun WNY, in cooperation with the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, Niagara Falls

USA Chamber, and Destination Niagara, recently announced the inaugural Niagara Falls USA Marathon, Half Marathon and Historic Lewiston 5K. The program includes a 5K event on April 29, and full marathon and half-marathon events on April 30.

Paul Beatty, president of Race Management Solutions, said the half-marathon course, which is pending USATF certification, would start and finish in the historic Village of Lewiston.

"Runners will travel through Artpark State Park and up the Lewiston escarpment where Niagara Falls originated some 10,000 years ago," he said. "The Niagara Scenic Parkway pedestrian path follows the Niagara River Gorge towards Niagara Falls and offers participants spectacular views of Canada as they run past the Ni-

agara Power Project, Devil's Hole and Whirlpool State Park to the turnaround located near the Underground Railroad Museum and Whirlpool Bridge. Full marathon participants will complete the half-marathon course twice!"

Beatty said there will be timing stations at the start and finish line, as well as the half-marathon turnaround. Custom finisher medals and running shirts will be available for all participants, as well as a post-race celebration at Brickyard Brewing Co.

Net proceeds from the event will support Community Missions and the Salvation Army.

"Experience for yourself the beauty and history of the Niagara Region!" Beatty said.

For more information, or to register, visit online at <https://NiagaraFallsUSA.itsyourrace.com>.

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