

Lions 'Swim for Sight' is oldest such event in NY state



Continued from Page 1
 outdoor event, and with experience abiding by all CDC and Niagara County Health requirements, just like we did during our last swim in May 2021. That is why we're confident this next 53rd annual Olcott 'Polar Bear Swim for Sight' will be safe."

Olcott Lions official Aaron Dey of Youngstown welcomes residents to attend this year's happening and join in the fun. As in past years, the "Swim for Sight" opens Sunday morning with a tailgate party that continues throughout the day until 4 p.m. Look for such activities as the woodcarving raffle, servings of firefighter's chili and chowder, plenty of vendors, a chicken barbecue, food and beverages provided by area Lions Clubs on Main Street, and the annual Niagara County firefighters "Tug of War" competitions at the park. Swim registration opens at 11 a.m. and continues to 2 p.m.

Leading to that is the "can't miss" Polar Bear Queen Contest held on the beach alongside the Lake Ontario shore ice at Krull Park beginning at 1:45 p.m. The event can be viewed from spectator areas in the park located above the beach.

And from there, "Swim for Sight" itself will get underway, with a throngs of swimmers dressed in their creative best. They'll begin their jaunts into the

lake waters, which are expected to be in the mid-30s.

Swimmers aged 18 and under will go first beginning at 1:50 p.m. and the adults continue from 2 p.m. onward in 15-minute intervals. As in past years, Lions officials said hundreds of participants are expected to participate in this annual swim – the oldest such event in New York state – which benefits Olcott Lions Club projects.

"Participants, whose numbers are projected to be in the hundreds, have, in many cases, been participating for decades, are taking to the water and ice and joining first-time participants who will all be #FREEZIN4AREASON," Dey said. "The annual swim has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars assisting those with visual impairments. It has also continues to support many other local registered charities that help Western New Yorkers in need."

While the weather is expected to be mild Sunday, with temps in the mid-50s and rain, Lions officials, nonetheless, recommend all visitors – particularly those intending to swim – come prepared.

For more information on this year's "Swim for Sight," including registration, visit www.swimforsight.com or the Olcott "Polar Bear Swim for Sight" page on Facebook.

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IN THE NEWS

St. Patrick's Day takeout dinner to support historic Old Stone Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, 505 Cayuga St., will offer a traditional St. Patrick's Day takeout dinner from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, March 17. Drive-thru delivery will be at the back entrance of the church.

Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert. Preorder dinners are for sale for \$15 and can be reserved by Friday, March 11. Call the church office at 716-754-4945 and leave a name, phone number and number of dinners to be reserved.

Full-price dinners at the door are \$17, and will be on a first-come, first-served basis until 6 p.m. (or sold out). Cash-only payments are appreciated.

Proceeds from the dinner will go toward preservation of the Old Stone Church – Lewiston's oldest and most historic church. The first church built in Lewiston opened in 1817 and played a key role in many village milestones. During the Civil War, it aided in the transport of slaves seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad. Church members would light the steeple providing a signal to peacekeepers in Queenston, Ontario, letting them know that it was safe for the escaping slaves to cross the Niagara River to freedom.

Lewiston Presbyterian Church is open to all for worship on Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

Shamrock Shake for a good cause

From March 1-15, for every

Shamrock Shake purchased from local McDonald's Restaurants, 25 cents will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western New York.

RMHC stated, "Not only is the annual return of the legendary Shamrock Shake a delicious delight for its many fans, but it's a great opportunity to honor a menu item that represents support and comfort for thousands of families."

"More than 40 years ago, a portion of Shamrock Shake sales went into developing the first Ronald McDonald House and our local participating McDonald's are celebrating that special history with their annual fundraiser for RMHC."

'Green Beer Sunday' at Gateway Harbor

Dwyer's Irish Pub in North Tonawanda and Gateway Harbor Park in the City of Tonawanda will hold the seventh annual "Green Beer Sunday" from noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at the Gateway Harbor Pavilion in the park.

A kickoff to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the event will open with a micro parade at Main and Broad streets, leading to the brand-new pavilion. Prizes will be offered for the best-dressed participant and best float.

At Gateway Harbor, visitors will find heated tents, servings of adult beverages, warm beverages, corned beef sliders and salt potatoes. Entertainment will feature live music by Poor Ould Goat from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

For more information or to register a float, visit Dwyer's Irish Pub on Facebook.

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